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Savvy Times™



ISSUE 34, FEBRUARY 2012

GOOD, BETTER, BEST. NEVER LET IT REST

*This Year Marks the 30th Anniversary
of Pat Parelli's First Clinic in 1982.*

Setting You Up For Success

Riding In Groups

Surfside Savvy

The Official Magazine of
Parelli Natural Horsemanship

Celebrating 30 Years of Natural Horsemanship



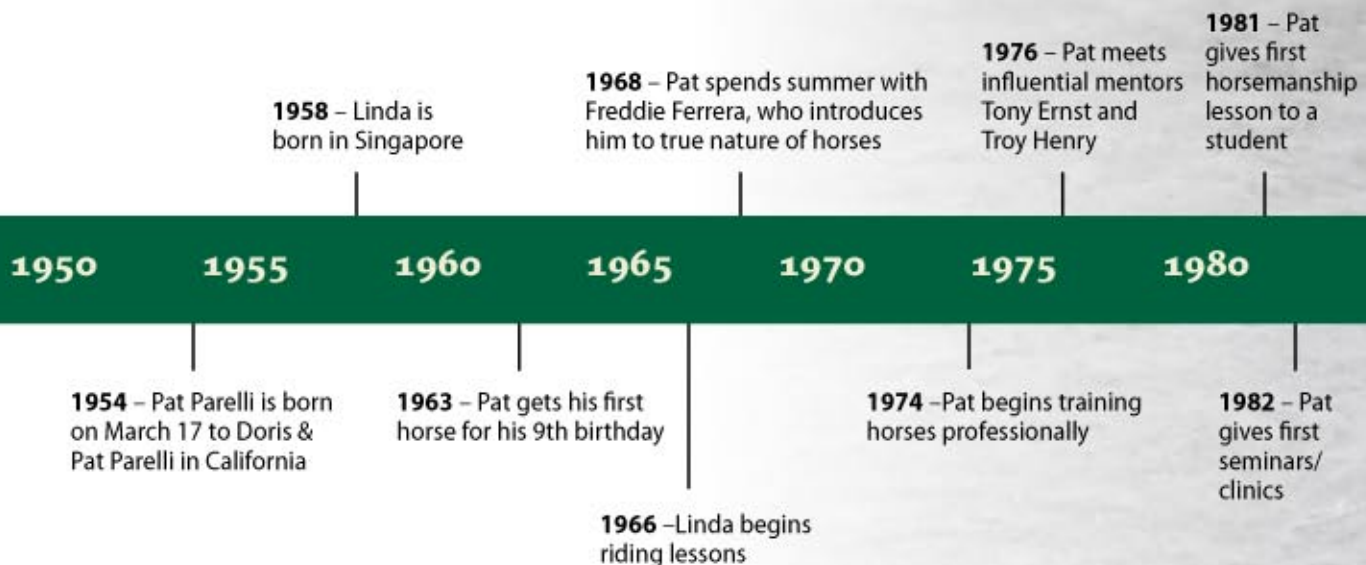


"The dynamics of horsemanship can be obtained naturally through communication, understanding and psychology. This is what I hope to share with you. In contrast is normal horsemanship, which is sometimes obtained through mechanics, fear and intimidation."

-Pat Parelli (1982)

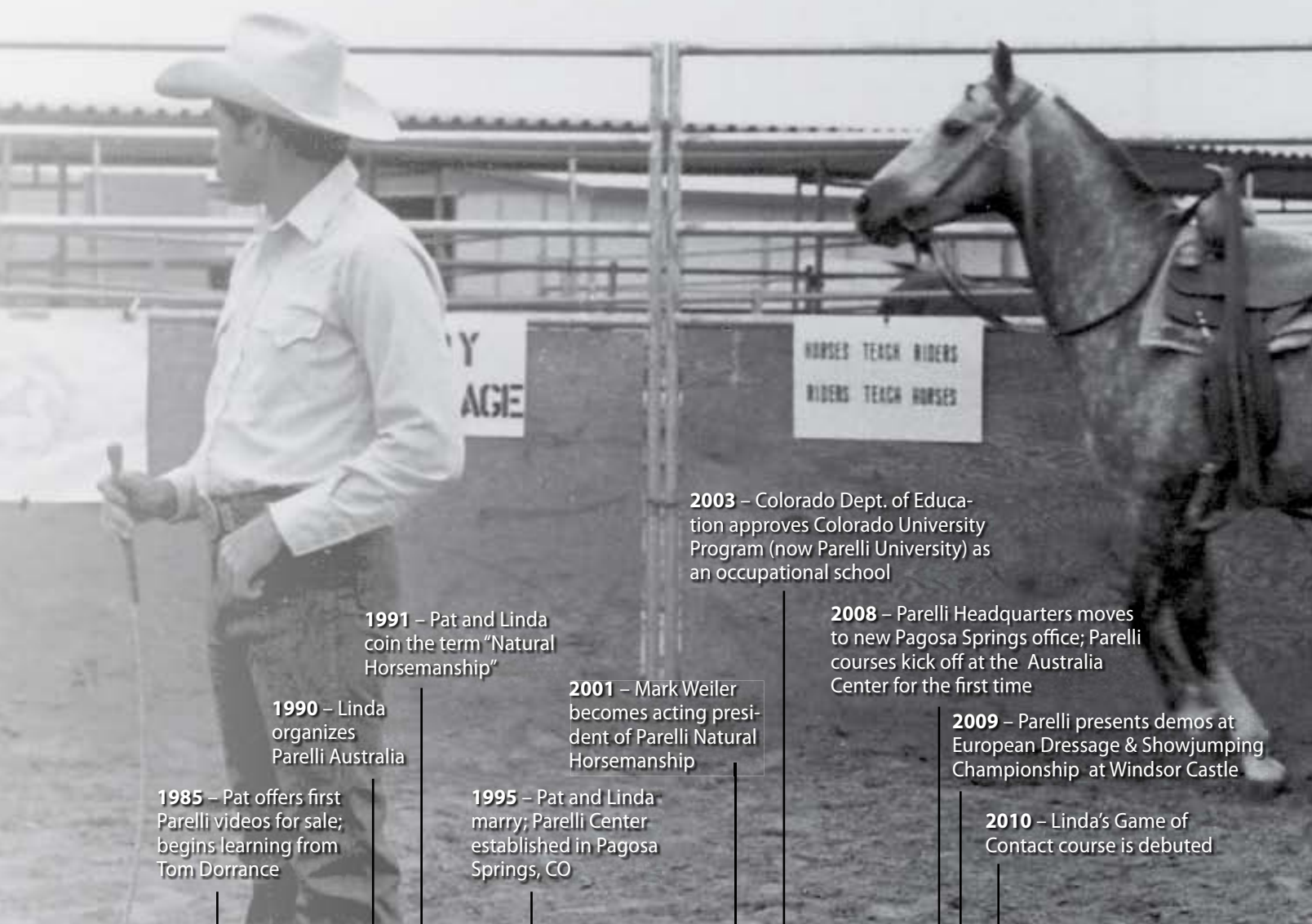
Celebrating 30 years, 1982-2012

Good, Better, Best. Never Let It Rest.



Pat's first clinic in 1982 where he shared his concepts with the public.

PHOTO BY KATE RIORDAN



2003 – Colorado Dept. of Education approves Colorado University Program (now Parelli University) as an occupational school

1991 – Pat and Linda coin the term “Natural Horsemanship”

1990 – Linda organizes Parelli Australia

1985 – Pat offers first Parelli videos for sale; begins learning from Tom Dorrance

2001 – Mark Weiler becomes acting president of Parelli Natural Horsemanship

1995 – Pat and Linda marry; Parelli Center established in Pagosa Springs, CO

2008 – Parelli Headquarters moves to new Pagosa Springs office; Parelli courses kick off at the Australia Center for the first time

2009 – Parelli presents demos at European Dressage & Showjumping Championship at Windsor Castle

2010 – Linda’s Game of Contact course is debuted

1985

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2012

1983 – Pat establishes first horsemanship center in Clements, CA

1989 – Linda meets Pat at clinic in Australia

1993 – Linda moves to the USA; the first Instructor Program commences

2000 – Pat featured on National Geographic TV Special, *America’s Lost Mustangs*

2007 – The concept of Horsenality™ is debuted; Parelli Celebration at NEC Birmingham, UK

1987 – Linda buys Regalo, the horse that would lead her to Pat’s clinics

1997 – Linda finds Remmer

2005 – 10,000th Savvy Club member

2011 – Parelli Connect, Parelli’s first social network, is unveiled; Horsemanship Fund begins

We Are



Ever wish you had...

- A roadmap to horsemanship progress?
- An online how-to library packed with articles and videos, searchable by topic?
- An interactive to-do list that banished boredom by suggesting fun new challenges?
- An online profile for your horse that tracked his progress and shared his life story?
- A way to locate "friends you haven't met yet" who are in your area and at your level?

*Stop Wishing...
Start Enjoying!*

Log On Now For Your FREE 30 Day Trial!



To learn more visit www.parelliconnect.com or become a fan of Parelli Natural Horsemanship on Facebook for all the latest news!



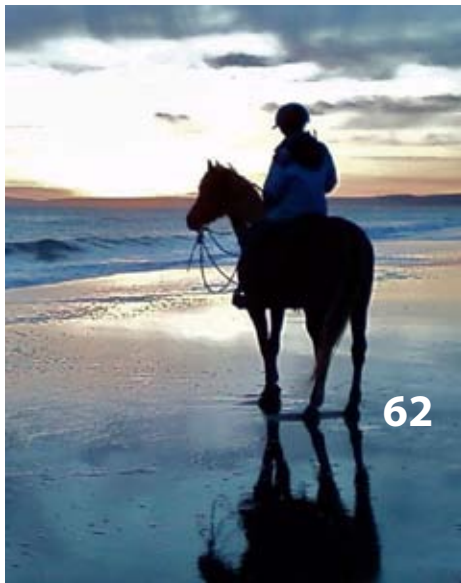
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Cover Photo: A savvy day as Pat watches Linda with one of their biggest audiences in Auckland, New Zealand, 1999.



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www.parelliconnect.com
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FOUNDERS Linda & Pat Parelli
Coco, Official Parelli Photographer

All photos are courtesy photos unless noted

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Huge thanks to all the members of our worldwide team, who do their best to be “the best me that they can be” every day. We value their commitment to supporting horse lovers worldwide in whatever way they can.

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Rodney Wates
Jason Watt
Gale Weber
Mark Weiler
Dani Wilday
Emilie Wood
Gabriel Zamudio
Jose Zamudio
Omar Zamudio

PARELLI FAMILY UPDATE

- *Alain and Kaffa Martignier have relocated to Australia.*
- *Ann Kiser is now focusing on Parelli campus and course development.*
- *Berin Macfarlane is relocating to Atwood Ranch Naturally in California.*
- *Brian and Katie Drake have relocated to California. Katie will sing at the 2012 Horse & Soul Tour events.*
- *Hans Oss has joined the team in Logistics and Fulfillment at Parelli Central.*
- *Kalley Krickeberg is making her full-time focus the development of horse demonstrations for live events.*
- *Susan Shoemark is the Parelli Horse & Soul Tour Producer.*
- *Tammy Reid is the US Sales Team Leader.*
- *Tina Giordano is spearheading the Parelli Professionals Program.*



NEWS

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PHOTO BY COCO



PHOTO BY COCO

DEAR FRIENDS,

by Linda Parelli

As I write this, it seems like ages have passed since the Summit, but it's only been a few months! We've been doing so much, and it's been non-stop. First, Pat's Wow with Cows course was a hit. I had so much fun riding through on my big Warmbloods and seeing students learning from Pat's mastery - and not just about cows! Just before that, Colleen Kelly, a rider-biomechanics expert, spent a week with us and we decided to shoot a couple of Mastery DVDs with her. One just came out, to great reviews. The exciting news is that we have some special DVDs in the works with Colleen.



PHOTO BY COCO

After more filming and editing - and snow - we finally headed for Florida for the winter, in time for my Game of Contact (GOC) course. With 24 riders, it was a big class, but I also had a lot of assistants and everyone did super. I love watching the changes in horses and riders, and we were also lucky to have Janice Dulak volunteer to run a Pilates class for the riders each morning. You should also know that there are now four instructors certified to teach Game of Contact: Lyndsey Fitch, Jackie Chant, Amy Bowers and Marion Oesch. There were also several others riding with me in mid-January who are well on their way to certification - we'll announce that for you too. In the meantime, if you want to schedule a Game of Contact course, please contact one of the certified instructors.

At the time I was teaching the GOC course, Pat headed to Fort Worth to perform at the NCHA (National Cutting

Horse Association) finals. Being invited to put on a seminar there was a huge feather in Pat's hat. He took a small team of mastery students, and Caton, to show how Parelli as a foundation can prepare horses to do their best mentally and emotionally, as well as physically. Soon, he'll be headed to Road to the Horse with his team partner Craig Cameron to compete against Australia (Dan James and Guy McLean) and Canada (Jonathan Field and Glenn Stewart), both of whom are former Parelli Professionals. Very exciting!

My parents arrived just before Christmas to stay for a month, so that was the best present ever. They are in their 80s and are both such inspirations! Pat has been competing regularly in cutting and cow horse events and doing very well. Not only that, but Caton is wowing everyone with his performances – he's winning seconds and thirds! I have also been doing lots of outings with my horses, especially to cross-country jumping fields for confidence and preparation. Marion (my protégé) will begin competing in eventing with both her horse, Whisper, and Allure. Can you believe that? Allure, my very challenging Trakehner horse that was pretty much uncontrollable until Horsenality™, Game of Contact and Zero Brace, has come so far in such a short time. Well, I guess it's not really that short; he's had years of developing ground skills! Now, in just a matter of months, he's caught up in all the other Savvys. He is made for eventing, especially jumping – turns out that talent for bucking is a talent for jumping!



2012 is shaping up to be a big year. I'm excited about the tour, on which I am the headliner, as Pat "hands off" to the student of the master (me). Of course, he will still be there in the ring to show us how it's done, with challenging trailer loading and masterful demonstrations of riding, lead changes, and the like.

Hot Jazz will be my main squeeze, and every day that I play with him, I keep thinking of what he needs to get brave enough to be in that arena. There will be lots of lessons for you for sure, as this lovely Right-Brain Introvert helps me share the message of Horsenality™ and Game of Contact.

What I really love about this tour is the "WE" part of We are Parelli. You'll see a few other top Parelli students sharing their accomplishments in a format that is welcoming for people new to Parelli as well as those of you who are already dedicated students of the program. It's an action-packed program unlike anything we've done before. Rehearsals have kicked off as we speak, and we're excited to share it with you.

See you on Parelli Connect and on the tour!

Yours naturally,
Linda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda'.



SETTING YOU UP FOR SUCCESS:

Hit the Trail, Colt Starting, & The Game of Contact

by Neil Pye

The Parelli Program is very much a pathway, a step-by-step guide to horsemanship. Within that pathway, however, there are specific topics that thousands of people love and want to focus on. Well, you asked, and we listened!

We recently introduced three new home-study products focusing on specific topics: trail riding, colt starting, and Linda's renowned Game of Contact. These products truly stand alone, and here's the best part: whether you've never done the Parelli program or you're entrenched in it, you're going to see tremendous benefits from these products.

Let's look through each of them, so you can see how we've truly put principles to purpose.

A Practical Exercise in Horsemanship

If you've got all the ingredients – a calm horse, good friends, beautiful scenery – a trail ride can be one of the most amazing experiences of your life. Of course, that's

a rather romantic image. The truth is, if your horse isn't acting as a partner or you don't understand their nature, trail riding can become a nightmare rather than a dream.

A trail ride magnifies your horse's emotional stability – or lack thereof. If your horse is calm, smart and brave, you'll love trail rides. Conversely, if your horse isn't prepared, you'll avoid trail rides like the plague, because they just bring out any shortcomings there may be in your horse/human partnership.

That's where *Hit The Trail* comes in.

Hit The Trail is a very practical guide to approaching a trail ride. We go through dozens of examples of situations that can occur on the trail, what you need to do before you leave for the trail, how to hook up the trailer, how to load your horses in the trailer in a safe and savvy way, and much more. We literally follow Pat and Linda on a trail ride, from beginning to end, through the beautiful Colorado wilderness.

But don't worry, it's not all soaring eagles and towering pines. Pat and Linda cover all sorts of situations that you could encounter. Let's say your horse rounds a corner and suddenly comes across, say, a saber-toothed black stump. He spooks and goes right-brain. If you and your horse aren't emotionally fit and prepared, this situation could turn very dangerous very quickly. That's what *Hit The Trail* is for: preparing you for the unexpected.

Do we cover every possible situation? No. There are only so many animals you can simulate in Colorado. But we cover many, many instances: going up a hill, down a hill, a scared horse, traveling in a group. We make no assumptions on *Hit The Trail*. We talk about preparation, so you're set up for success. The goal of this product is to get you and your horse to be calmer, smarter and braver at the end of the trail ride than you were at the beginning.

In addition to the practical tips out on the trail, we've included some invaluable cutaway sessions where Linda takes us through major topics in depth. Spooking, for example, is a huge problem for horses out on the trail, so Linda demonstrates and describes strategies to overcome it. She explains how playing Follow the Rail applies to trail rides. As Pat says, "Prior and Proper Preparation Prevents P--- Poor Performance."

This product may focus specifically on the trail, but the theories and principles behind it are applicable to anything and everything you do with your horses – taking your horse to a show, a show jumping event, anything. If your horse is calm, smart and brave, you're ready for anything.

*If you've got all the ingredients
- a calm horse, good friends,
beautiful scenery – a trail ride
can be one of the most amazing
experiences of your life.*

Over the years, I've met dozens of people who love the idea of trail riding, but wouldn't do it if their life depended on it. They only ride in arenas, where they feel they'll be fine if they can control every aspect of their environment. Of course, as we know, we can't actually control our environments – the best we can do is to prepare ourselves so we're ready for whatever comes. That's what *Hit The Trail* is all about.



Develop A Partnership From the Start

Colt starting is near and dear to Pat's heart. Really, it's how he made his name in the horsemanship world, over 30 years ago. He was influenced by great natural horsemen when he was young, the mentors you've all heard about. That's where the basis for the entire Parelli Program sprang from.

Pat would hold weekly colt starting courses, and he began to realize that the people who should be involved with the colt starting – knowledgeable, athletic people with horse experience – were sitting on the fence watching, and the people that didn't have the knowledge were the ones bringing 2- and 3-year-old colts in.

As a result, Pat knew that he had to come up with a program just to keep these people alive! The colt starting program he created became the forerunner for Parelli Levels 1 and 2. But this new *Colt Starting* product is truly the first Parelli product to focus solely on the advanced subject of colt starting.



For 30 years, Pat has been hesitant to put colt starting into a product, because he knew that if a person hadn't achieved Level 4 horsemanship, they could get themselves into real trouble. But now, after 30 years, there are so many people at Level 4 and above that there is a viable and knowledgeable audience for this type of product. He makes it clear at the beginning: if you haven't gone through

Levels 1-4, please do, or at least reach an equivalent level of horsemanship so you're ready for this advanced topic.

In terms of the technique, finesse and knowledge required, I believe Colt Starting is up there with bomb defonation. Because of this, Pat lays out a specific checklist of steps to achieve before moving forward. To successfully and naturally start a colt, you must convince the colt to:

1. Accept the human
2. Accept the saddle
3. Accept the rider
4. Accept the bit

If you follow this set of steps that Pat lays out, thoroughly read the horse, and absorb the 30 years of knowledge that Pat has to share, you will be successful. But remember, take the time it takes. Pat certainly takes that to heart on this product. You'll see Pat work with a young mare who's essentially wild; she's barely experienced human contact at all.

You'll see Pat work with a young mare who's essentially wild; she's barely experienced human contact at all.

At the beginning, you couldn't even get a halter on her. So Pat takes us through the process of breaking down that predator/prey barrier. He takes you step-by-step, how to approach a horse and how to get them interested and comfortable with you.

This truly is a comprehensive product that takes you from the very beginning – convincing a young mare that you're not the enemy – to seeing her walk, trot and canter on a loose rein. Throughout it all, Pat takes the time it takes. There are many examples early on where he can see that she's not totally comfortable with him as a partner yet, so he knows it would be pointless and irresponsible to introduce the saddle at the time.

The goal of *Colt Starting* is to make you knowledgeable, giving you the tools you'd need if you choose to start your own colt. It's an advanced subject that cannot be taken lightly, but with preparation and knowledge, it's also immensely rewarding.



PHOTO BY COCO

A Bridge Between Two Worlds

I firmly believe that *The Game of Contact* is the most exciting new product that we've introduced in a long time. I believe this product is the bridge between the traditional horse world and the natural horsemanship world, and it may be the thing that brings the two together. We really have so much in common, especially when it comes to riding with contact.

Connection and collection have always been challenging for people, and Linda has absolutely experienced that herself. Throughout her years in the Parelli Program, working with dressage master Walter Zettl, and even before the program, Linda has gone through her share of trials and tribulations. But Linda is the consummate student, and all her learning has resulted in *The Game of Contact*. Linda has cracked the code of understanding and explaining how to achieve connection and collection.

Linda has always credited her influences and mentors for getting her to the level she's at, and *The Game of Contact* is no different. Linda has been blessed to have learned from the best – Walter Zettl, Pat Parelli, Luis Lucio. She's not claiming to have reinvented the wheel with *The Game of Contact*. Rather, what she's done is discover a teaching method that takes a complex, advanced subject and makes it easier to understand through practical teaching scenarios.

As is traditionally the case with the Parelli Program, this product spends invaluable time preparing on the ground so you're mentally, emotionally and physically fit. Linda

emphasizes simulations on a barrel that you can do yourself or with another person finding balance, learning what you have to do with the reins, how to hold rather than pull.

What I love about this product, and what I feel is incredibly helpful, is that Linda demonstrates with different types of horses. We feature an extroverted horse that has a lot of energy and is used to moving his feet; later, we take that same philosophy and apply it to an introverted horse who's more dominant and doesn't want to move his feet. Obviously no two horses are the same, so Linda works with horses of varying levels of experience.

*I believe The Game of Contact
is the bridge between the
traditional and the natural
horsemanship world.*

Connection and collection are all about feel, timing and balance. How do you put that into words? It's like trying to explain to someone how to paint a picture. Words can only point us in a direction. Linda has put down a step-by-step set of simulations and preparation that lead to achieving contact. The horse accepts the contact, invites it, looks forward to it, and eventually, he dances with you. It's a beautiful thing. 🐾



PUTTING PRINCIPLE TO PURPOSE

Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation 'Parelli-style'

by Melanie Martin-Dent

Woo hoo! I recently spent an inspiring, unforgettable week volunteering at the Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center in Murchison, Texas. If you have an interest in sharpening your skills to become a Parelli instructor or in horse development and rescue, the Doris Day Center is your destination. You will experience a warm welcome from Parelli Professionals Anne and Jacques Favre and your home away from home will be a comfortable, refurbished "disaster response" motor home located on the property. Most of all, you will be an active participant in improving the lives of horses while testing your horsemanship on one of about twenty rescue animals in training.

A high point was the joy of feeling that I was making a positive difference for the humans as well as the horses...

My journey to the Doris Day Center began with identifying my horsemanship goal. After months of soul-searching, I announced to my husband that I had finally found it: "I want

to take what I have learned through the Parelli Program and use it to help horses in rescue situations." Imagine my excitement when, just two weeks later, my Member Audio CD arrived in the mail and on it I heard Linda Parelli and Keith Dane, Humane Society of the United States director of equine protection. "This is it!" I thought. "This is what I want to do! How do I get involved?" Following Pat's sage advice to "take care of your horsemanship and it will take care of you," I kept playing with my horses and improving my horsemanship while waiting for more information.

In September 2011, the opportunity presented itself in the form of a chance meeting at the Liberty and Bridleless Riding Summit in Pagosa Springs. Anne Favre, director of the Doris Day Center and Parelli Professional, was working at a booth with Keith. Anne and I chatted at length about Parelli and the Summit, and she answered my many questions about becoming involved in rescue work. Then, she invited me to experience rescue work firsthand by volunteering at the DDHRAC. What a wonderful way to test my goal while being of service at the same time! I had a little vacation time left and enough frequent-flyer miles for a plane ticket, so I accepted Anne's kind invitation and, before I knew it, I was on my way to Texas.

Approaching the ranch on a winding, two-lane road through a tunnel of trees, I was deeply moved by the natural beauty of the area. Nestled in the remote East Texas countryside, it was almost as lovely as home! Given the news reports of the hot, dry Texas weather, I had not expected such lush loveliness.

The Doris Day Center makes a great first impression. Upon arrival at the front gate, I found a modest, beautifully kept facility which was as attractive as any private barn I've seen. Anne greeted me personally; we toured the brand new, 10-horse barn and attached offices, the arena, and the Parelli-style foundation station all made possible by the center's primary benefactor and namesake, legendary actress and animal rights activist Doris Day. My first day ended with dinner with Anne, Jacques and their ranch hand, Sherri Cade. As I settled in for my first night's rest in the motor home, I was content in my choice to spend a week here.

A typical day at the rescue begins early. Morning chores include bringing horses into the foundation station for feeding, taking fecal samples to monitor worm counts, fly spraying, grooming, health checks, and turn out for those who are not to be played with that day. The rescue is meticulous about manure clean-up as an important component of parasite management in high-density herds, so I helped the staff shovel manure and clean pastures. I also attended morning staff meetings to learn more about the operation of the rescue program and ranch. At these meetings, I learned about the importance of a robust volunteer program to support rescue operations. Clearly, one of my perceptions had held true!

Afternoons are reserved for play with horses. Trainer Aubrey Gaines assigned me three horses for the week;

my mission was to play with them, look for "holes" in their training, and make what progress we could. Two of my horses, Mustang Sally and Alvin, were pretty solid. Then there was Glory, who had some significant issues.

If you have an interest in sharpening your skills to become a Parelli instructor and in horse development and rescue, the Doris Day Center is your destination.

Loving a challenge, I decided to start with the problem horse. Glory turned out to be a sweet Right-Brain Introvert mare with many, many thresholds, and she gave me great opportunities for managing my energy while practicing approach and retreat. We focused primarily on "accepting the saddle." With patient teaching, Glory will make someone a wonderful partner.

I thought Mustang Sally was an introvert until I got on her back and was surprised by her level of energy. We had a great time and she really tested my horsemanship. The third, Alvin, was a playful Left-Brain Extrovert who responded wonderfully when I got provocative before going to his pen. I had lots of fun with him! My Parelli training on Horsenality™ proved invaluable at the rescue facility – both in keeping me safe and helping me choose effective strategies to use with each horse.

Much of my last day was spent touring and feeding equines at the Cleveland Armory Black Beauty Ranch. Black Beauty is home to 600 horses, burros and ponies who are fed each morning by a department of just two employees, often with one on duty at a time. They are responsible for feeding, giving medication and monitoring the health of all. What an assignment! I also visited the sanctuary, which is home to primates, camels, emus, ostriches, tortoises and many, many different animals. I even learned a little about monkey body language, which is VERY different from horse body language. I was advised to keep my distance and NOT bare my teeth, as my friendly smile would be perceived as threatening behavior to the primates.

As much as I enjoyed my experience at Black Beauty, I was sad to have missed an important event at the Doris Day



Center — an adopter had come to pick up her new horse. Placing an equine is always a bittersweet time. While the staff members are sad to see the horses go, they are also happy to see these beautiful creatures find loving homes. The Center's adoption process is quite rigorous, and potential adopters are carefully assessed to ensure they can appropriately care for the horse. The Center prepares a take-home kit complete with a Parelli "Get Started" pack, halter, lead rope, Savvy String and a Horsenality™ profile for their new partner, in addition to an HSUS equine book and all the relevant medical and training records. Pictures are taken of horse and human(s) to hang on the rescue walls, and then the new pair pulls out of the driveway and begins the journey home. The Center has already adopted out eight horses in its first seven months and looks forward to re-homing many more.

The day I left, Anne gave me a new challenge. She asked me to lead a couple of young volunteers, ages 12 and 13, who were seeking to advance their horsemanship. These girls come with their mothers each week to play with horses and help around the ranch, and Anne had already introduced them to the basics. My task was to find fun and interesting learning activities for an hour or so before starting on morning chores. I invented a game involving playing and identifying the Seven Games. We had a great time, and each identified important lessons we had learned at the end.

The highlight of my week was getting acquainted with "my" three horses, trying out old skills and applying new ones in a different environment.

The highlight of my week was getting acquainted with "my" three horses, trying out old skills and applying new ones in a different environment. A second high point was the joy of feeling that I was making a positive difference for the humans as well as the horses, supporting the work of the leadership, and sharing the gift of the Parelli program with some who had not fully embraced this approach to horsemanship. Plus, it didn't hurt at all that we had beautiful weather with crisp, frosty mornings and warm sunny afternoons. Good food, good friends and good horses ... what more could a person wish for?



As I knew it would, my time at the Center flew by and I found it difficult to leave. There was so much more to learn and accomplish, and they could obviously use the help. But job, family and my horses at home were calling; so with a smile on my face and one last hug with Anne, I said goodbye and promised to return someday. I hope to stay longer next time.

A final thought: Barring a miracle, it is unlikely that the Doris Day Center will soon have the necessary funding to hire the amount of staff required to help all of these animals. The need grows daily. Therefore, volunteer workers are crucial to the success of the operation. Volunteering offers countless opportunities to learn, grow and share the gifts we have been given through the Parelli program. I highly recommend you give it a try. It will impact you in ways you cannot imagine, and it really is the ultimate way to "put principle to purpose." 🐾

To find out more about my experience, please contact me on Parelli Connect or Facebook. To make arrangements to volunteer at the Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center, contact Anne Rathbun-Favre at afavre@humanesociety.org. Her cell phone number is 903-368-1117. Follow their adoptions and progress on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DDHRAC. The DDHRAC website, humanesociety.org/horserescue, will introduce you to their many horses and tell you more about how to become a volunteer.

Four reasons to Choose MDBarnmaster for Your Natural Horse Environment.

It's Chew-Proof, Kick-Proof,
and Darn Near Fire-Proof,
with the Freedom
to provide an environment
matched to your horses needs.



Linda Parelli is connected to her horses and understands their individual needs. When asked to design a stall front for her dream barn, this is what she came up with -- a low slung design that allows her horses to be protected from the elements while interacting with her (and each other) in an open, airy environment.



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PHOTO BY COCO

THE PARELLI HORSEMANSHIP FUND

by Lori Northrup

Wants YOU!

2012 promises to be a breakthrough year for the Parelli Horsemanship Fund. Our programs, all focused on doing what it takes to make the world a better place for horses and humans, will be swinging into action as the year progresses, and we need your help.

You are invited to help make the Parelli dream a reality through the Parelli Horsemanship Fund. We are in the process of building the team that will launch the next chapter of the Parelli not-for-profit efforts and its programs in 2012, and there are key vacancies that need filling.

If you have world-class skills in your field of expertise, are willing to take management accountability in a volunteer capacity, and want a ground-floor opportunity to build a wildly successful nonprofit organization...you are invited to apply for a volunteer position with the Parelli Horsemanship Fund.

In all cases, we are looking for dedicated and talented individuals who are aligned with the Parelli mission, will work on a 100% volunteer basis from home with frequent email and phone contact with other team members, produce excellent results, and be available at least 5-10 hours per week. If you can travel to and work at live Parelli events at your own expense when possible, that's a bonus for everyone involved as well.

To learn more about the current positions that need filling, and to apply if you are interested, please visit www.ParelliHorsemanshipFund.org.

If you don't see a position that fits your particular talents, don't despair! We will continue to have openings as our plans move forward. Visit us often to watch for updates.



Helping to create
a better world...

Tour Stops 2012

We are up to our elbows in plans for our participation at every Parelli tour stop in 2012. We have lots of exciting activities and programs to tell you about, so be sure to stop by our booth and say "hello" to Lori, Juliette, and our other volunteers. If you plan to be at a tour stop, we'd love your help! Please e-mail juliette.watt@gmail.com to let us know which event(s) you will be attending, and apply for our Parelli Horsemanship Fund booth volunteer activities.

Tell us your Parelli Scholarship Story

If you have been a Parelli Scholarship recipient, we want to share your story with the world. The Parelli Horsemanship Fund wants to put a spotlight on people who have been helped along their horsemanship path through a Parelli Scholarship. We will share selected stories in our publications and on our website. Tell us how a Parelli Scholarship has helped your horsemanship journey... and your life! Send a short, well-written piece (around 250 words) and include a photo to Lori@Northrup.com.



Visit the Parelli Horsemanship Fund booth at the tour stops and bid on the silent auction for this magnificent oil painting, painted and donated by Teresa Whittaker.



The New Parelli Ponies

Modeled after each of the four Horsenalities™, these adorable soft toys are sure to capture your heart and imagination. And best of all, 100% of profits from the sales of Parelli Ponies will be allocated to the Fund, where they will be helping to find "forever" homes for horses in need, enriching children's lives through natural horsemanship learning, developing future para-equestrians, and supporting students all over the world by developing the Parelli Professionals and equine educators of tomorrow.

Other Ways You Can Help:

- Be a good example and show others the power of love, language and leadership for horses and humans alike.
- Spread the word about helping to create a better world for horses and humans by talking about your experiences in the Parelli Program with ALL of your friends, not just the horse owners!
- Get connected and support fellow students and newcomers near you on Parelli Connect.
- Become a fan of our Facebook page and share it with your Facebook friends.
- Coordinate or participate in a fundraiser.
- Buy a Parelli Pony.
- Buy a new horse through the Parelli Dream Horse Program.
- If you already have the Levels Pathways DVDs (Levels 1 through 4), then consider lending the DVDs to a horse rescue or therapeutic riding center near you. 🐾

Help us spread the word and start your friends on the path to success! Helping change the world for horses and humans is as simple as telling three people about the FREE 30 Day Trial Membership on ParelliConnect.com. As soon as they sign on, they'll have FREE streaming access to the complete Level 1 Educational Program so that can begin their horsemanship journey without delay!



PHOTO BY COCO

AND THE BEAT GOES ON...

Behind the Scenes on Tour



by Scott Teigen

By now, there's a pretty good chance you've read the press release for Parelli's upcoming tour. If not, I'll give you a quick refresher:

"Imagine a pitch-black arena filled with thousands of antsy spectators. Every one of you is standing up, breathing, waiting. As the music rises, it launches the 2012 Horse & Soul Parelli World Tour..."

Just gives you chills, doesn't it? It sure does for me.

Full disclosure: I've never attended a Parelli tour stop. I've been a writer for Parelli since July, and while working with the Social Media team at the 2011 Liberty & Bridleless Riding Summit was amazing, I'm eager to see the Parelli experience "on the road," so to speak.

"Why does Parelli need a writer for their tour stops," you may be asking yourself. And to be honest, they probably don't. Conveniently for yours truly, however, they were looking for someone to focus on that "as the music rises" part of the press release. And guess who they asked.

I've never been so happy to be a music geek.

As those of you who attended the Summit can attest to, good music selection is essential to a knockout performance. Can you picture Linda entering the arena without Colbie Caillat's "Brighter Than the Sun" playing, bringing thousands of people to their feet to clap in time to the beat? Or Kalley's stirring tribute to the 9/11 victims without Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA"?

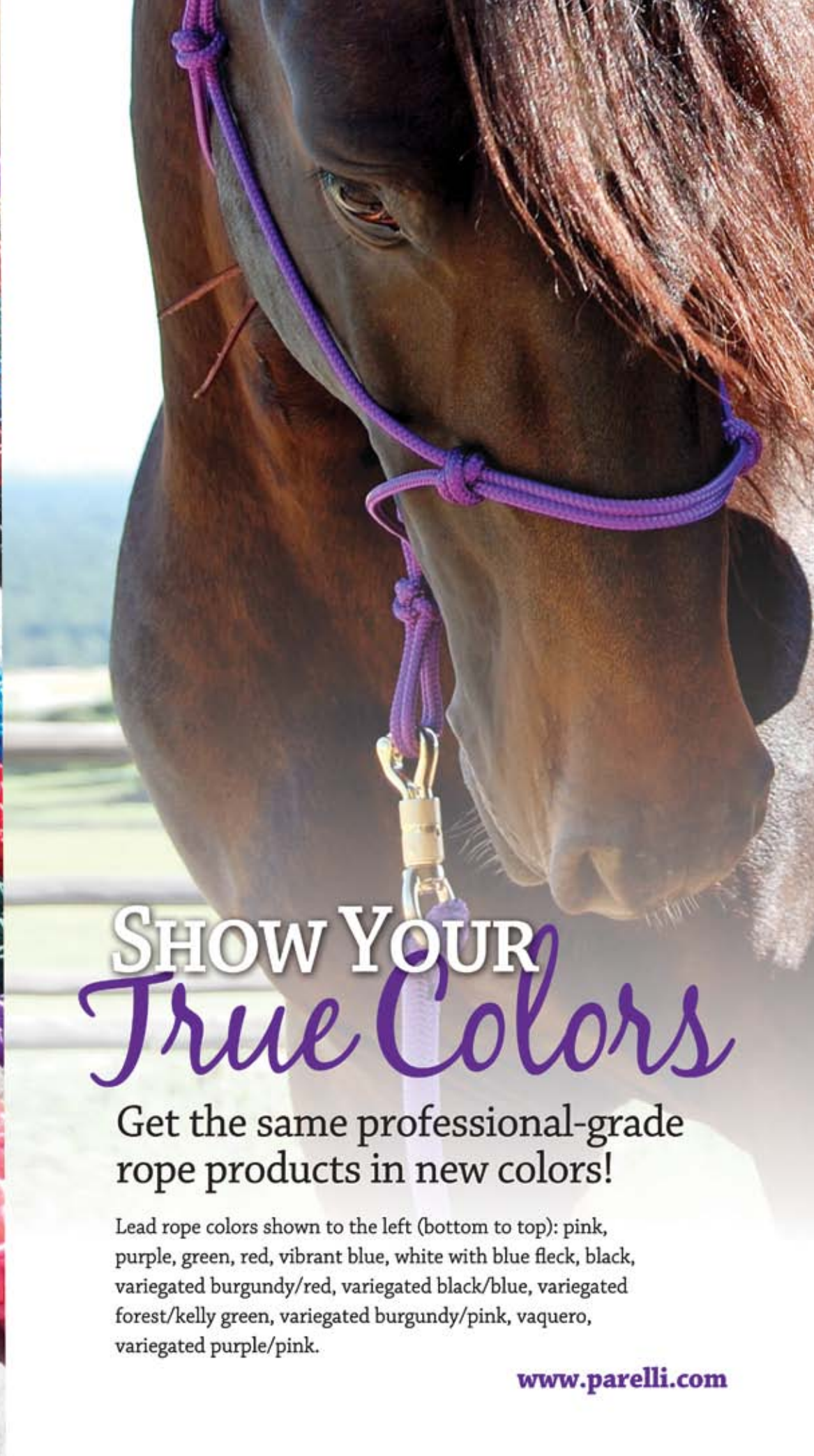
Those are the images that stick with people, and that's why I'm going to have such a good time having a hand

in creating them. Each presenter – Linda, Pat and Kalley – will be coupled with music that really accentuates their personality, message and energy. Every song has to feel right.

And don't worry, I'm not just going to walk into the arena, plug my iPod into a set of speakers and hit "Shuffle." I know that there are songs and artists that work for this type of event, and those that almost certainly would not. For instance, I happen to think Tom Waits is great, but you will absolutely not hear his, um... distinctive... voice blaring out of any arena speakers in Columbus, Ohio. No worries.

With that said, what I'm looking forward to the most is taking something I really enjoy, and know a decent amount about, and sharing it with thousands of people. If I think a song by, say, The Black Keys or Wilco really fits for a certain performance, you'll probably hear it. If George Strait's "Here For A Good Time" sounds really great following Katie Drake's "Ready For A Change," you'll probably hear that too. Parelli emphasizes never-ending self-improvement, and there's no better way for me to achieve that than by constantly keeping my eyes and ears open for great combinations of performance and music.

In the meantime, I'll have my headphones on, bouncing back and forth between the new Coldplay album and *The Essential Johnny Cash*. You probably won't actually see me at any Horse & Soul Tour stops, but you'll hear me. And if I see thousands of people dancing in their seats, clapping and singing along, I'll know I did something right. 🐾



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www.parelli.com



PHOTO BY COCO

THE BEST SEAT

In the House

by Patrick Handley, Ph.D.

When I heard that the competing clinicians in the 2011 Road to the Horse would be Pat Parelli, Chris Cox, and Clinton Anderson, I knew that this was perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity to see three top trainers at work.

A day before the event, I received a call from Debbie Miller telling me that her husband, Dr. Robert Miller, was in the hospital in Murfreesboro recovering from an unexpected health scare. She wanted to know if I could help set up a computer so he could watch the competition online. Dr. Miller was to have been a judge at the event. Debbie wanted to get a laptop set up so that he could watch the streaming broadcast from his room. I was glad to help and offered to drop off an extra computer at the hospital on my way to the arena.

I went on to the competition, checked in, and went to check out my seat. Great view; just what I had hoped for. Later I returned to Debbie's hotel, picked her up and we went to the hospital to visit Dr. Miller and set up the computer.

The next morning, the official beginning of the program, I dropped Debbie off at the competition and swung by the hospital to get the streaming video set up. I decided

to watch a part of the event, just a few minutes, to ensure everything was working. However, I soon began to realize that I was learning more listening to Dr. Miller's comments and insights than I would by sitting at the event. I decided to stay a bit longer.

I ended up watching most of the program from the bedside of Dr. Miller and as I reflect back, I've decided that it was indeed the "best seat in the house."



Following are some excerpts from our conversation:

Dr. Handley: Well, we're underway. This is my first time watching the complete Road To The Horse event from beginning to end. I've seen clips before, but not the entire event. Last night was great; the remuda came running in and the clinicians picked their horses.

Dr. Miller: It's a very exciting program. My wife Debbie and I have gone almost every year. And I've been a judge on most of them.

Dr. Handley: I can't help but wonder what characteristics and behaviors you would have watched for if you were a clinician and picking a horse?

Dr. Miller: I scan over the herd, seeking a horse with an honest look; an intuitive, soft eye with no fear. Energy-wise, I watch for enough energy to withstand the event, but not so much that it would be hard to manage. I picked the same horse that Pat did. We'll see how it works out.

Road to the Horse - Day One:

Dr. Handley: As we go along, I'm going to ask you what you watch for as a judge when you're scoring this event. I've always wondered what the judges look for and how they rate things.

Dr. Miller: Yes, I'd be glad to share the generalities. Without the score card in front of me it will be difficult to reference specifics, but I can give you a good flavor. Keep in mind, each judge comes in with different experiences and backgrounds.

Dr. Miller: At this early point, Pat is the only one getting the horse to connect and follow him. He started out with an excellent relationship with the horse. This should help him later. Pat is exceptionally quick at building a relationship.

Dr. Handley: What is Pat doing?

Dr. Miller: Actually it's what he *isn't* doing. He isn't putting pressure on the horse. That is an advantage of age: less intensity to compete, which is a young man's disease. Pat's not pushing the horse. He's developing the connection first.

Dr. Miller: Here again it may be due in part to age. Most men under 40 have difficulty following Pat's approach. Women however are much better. All the legendary great horsemen are old men, because not until past 40 do most men lose their natural competitiveness. It's nearly

impossible for them to communicate with horses if they are threatening the horse. I forecast we will be seeing more great women masters emerge, and emerge earlier in their lives, and this will continue the revolution in horse training.

*Pat is exceptionally quick at
building a relationship
[with the horse].*

Dr. Miller: Hmm...

Dr. Handley: Okay, you've spotted something; what is it?

Dr. Miller: Pat's horse is following him and licking and chewing. He stays connected to Pat. Now Pat just commented that the horse is thinking.

Dr. Handley: I've always wanted to ask about that. As a psychologist and behaviorist, I've often wondered if we are being a bit anthropomorphic when we say a horse is thinking. Certainly horses think differently than humans, so it might be hard to tell, but do you think the horse is actually thinking?

Dr. Miller: Yes, we hear that phrase "he's thinking" often attributed to licking and chewing. But I'm not convinced of that either. I believe it is more closely related to showing acceptance of leadership; it's a signal of submission and for a horse it often means relaxation because he now has someone to follow.

Dr. Miller: OOPS! There it goes – the horse just bucked him off.

Dr. Handley: Wow, you called that within seconds, it was like listening to a play-by-play.

Dr. Miller: Yes, yes, I could see that coming. And the worst of it is that most people won't interpret this correctly. The horse didn't buck "Pat" off; the horse likes Pat. Their relationship is solid. The horse fled from fear. The horse didn't like the tension of the girth and something over on that right side scared him. Pat didn't work on that right side quite as much as he usually does. Again, the horse was so accepting that it was easy for Pat to assume he was okay on that side but oddly enough he wasn't. Who knows why.

Dr. Handley: How will this be judged?

Dr. Miller: It will probably be scored differently by the different judges. I wouldn't deduct much because it wasn't about aggression or about Pat himself. The relationship was intact, but a step in desensitizing was

missed. That's not a big deal to me since Pat is now hard at work mounting and dismounting bareback and the horse is fine.

Dr. Handley: Well the first day is over. Do you have any other thoughts of the different clinicians' styles?

Dr. Miller: At this point you can see the differences in approaches. I suppose if I had a big ranch and had to get 20 young horses ready to sell, I'd hire Clinton. He's a great technician, works fast - sometimes too fast - but he gets the job done. He's a competitive young man with a plan.

If I had a horse that I wanted broke fairly quickly and competed, I'd hire Chris. He also gets a lot done fast. But his most notable talent is his riding ability. He has a great seat; he's just an incredible rider. He's perhaps the best technical rider of the three clinicians today. You'll see that later. He'll get more done in the saddle tomorrow than he did on the ground today. And if I wanted my horse to win events, I'd hire Chris to ride him.

*If I wanted my personal horse
gentled and trained, I'd hire Pat.
I want a horse that connects
with and trusts humans first.*

On the other hand, if I wanted my personal horse gentled and trained, I'd hire Pat. At my age, I'm not the rider that Chris and Clinton are; I'd want a horse that has no flight response and that has overcome all fear of a human. In fact I'd want a horse that has never developed any fear to overcome. I want a horse that connects with and trust humans first.

Road to the Horse - Day Two:

Dr. Miller: Alright, Pat just explained very nicely what he's trying to do. He wants to go "up to the limit, but not past the limit." And he's admitted making a mistake yesterday. The crowd will appreciate that because they're pretty sophisticated and some of them saw it. Pat loves to teach and in sharing what he believes happened yesterday, it will help others. I'm sure he thought a lot about what the rather surprising bucking was all about.

Dr. Handley: Humans often have trouble shifting gears, taking that risk that their next decision might be worse and get them into more trouble. And, the tendency is to keep going back to the same behavior that got them where they are.

Dr. Handley: What do you watch for?

Dr. Miller: I look for a steady walk and steady lope. Smart clinicians walk out to the fence and then start. They get away from that gate, which means safety to the horse.

A younger horse is often more submissive and trains more easily.

The safety you want is numbers and you want your horse to see you as a herd member. That's why building the relationship with no fear is so important prior to rail and obstacle. You want 100% respect with 0% fear. I want response but not fear.

Dr. Handley: Regardless of who wins, what's the big take away from Road To The Horse?

Dr. Miller: The great lesson here is that it's not just about the horses, but rather a demonstration that there is a way of getting along with other creatures, and of course other people, without coercion and force. That is what I hope people take away. 🐾



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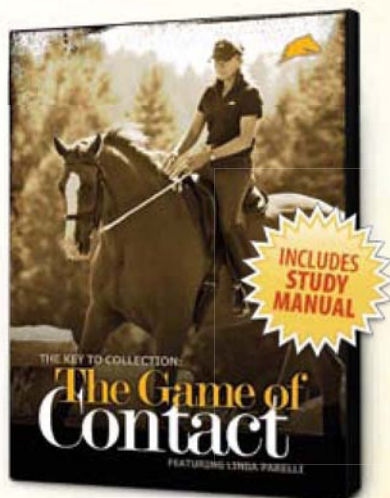
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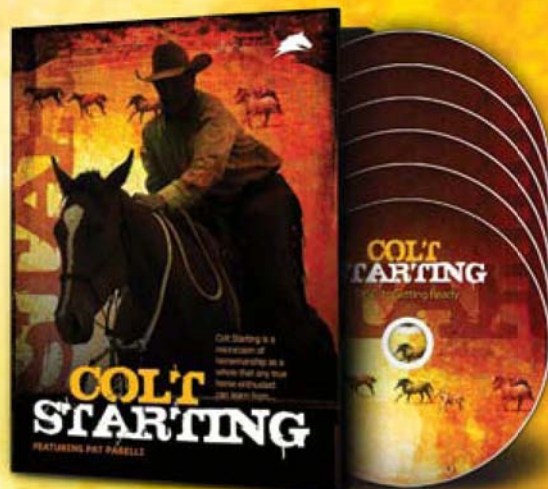
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WILD HORSE TAMING

Those Three Days in Reno

by Kaye Thomas, Parelli Professional and Senior Horse Development Specialist

Being intensely interested in all aspects of Parelli Horse Development, I couldn't help myself but to commit to the idea of attending the Parelli event, Wild Horse Taming, Naturally, in Reno, Nevada. Now, when I made that decision from my little office in Rutherglen, Australia, it just felt like a pipe dream. To travel to the other side of the planet in six months time and attend an unprecedented Parelli event... just the thought seemed difficult. I wasn't sure how I could do it but I was determined to bring it together. If I kept my focus, got totally organised and didn't let mundane life events break my focus, I would make it happen! So, the plan in my head developed into a plan on paper, and the plan on paper began to take the physical form as I landed amongst the dry hills of Reno, late on a hot July night.

From the moment the eight wild mustangs leapt from the back of a goose-neck and went nervously veering around the indoor arena, I was enthralled. Wanting to get the most out of the three days and maximise my knowledge in horse development, I began to take notice of each horse's specific behaviours. They were all bay geldings, so to individualise them, I watched for differences in movement, behavioural tendencies and any other markings. I wanted

to sort out each mustang's Horsenality™ as quickly as possible as well as gauge the spirit of each horse to see which ones were mild, moderate or extreme. I hoped to establish this before the handlers began to make contact, just to see how accurate I could be.

There are four very distinct influences that determine a horse's behaviour and Horsenality:

- The Innate Characteristics (aka genetic inheritance e.g. differences between hot-blooded horses and cold-blooded horses).
- The Learned Behaviour (tendencies and patterns they have developed).
- The Environment (changes that may stimulate the horse).
- Spirit Level (mild, moderate or extreme), which amplifies how much energy and effort a horse can put into both desirable or undesirable traits and how long they can sustain this behaviour).

Using the above information as a filter to my thoughts, I supposed the immediate right-brain reactions from most of the mustangs was due to the change in the environment. I kept in mind that these weren't just backyard horses or unstarted horses, but wild mustangs that had never been

handled by humans, haltered, educated in any way or seen the inside of a covered arena while surrounded by predators. Pinpointing any horse's initial behaviours can give us a quick snap-shot on what to expect from them, or as Pat would say, "What is apt to happen." It was just like watching students turn up for partnership (beginner) courses and seeing which horses drag their humans around, which horses pinned their ears back, threatening, and which horses nervously hesitate or brace before committing to the human's suggestions. These things can tell us a lot about both the behaviour of the horse and the human and what information is needed to influence more productivity.

Observing the transformation of the mustangs at this event was amazing. I knew it would change the views of people who scoff at the notion of Horsenality, believing it may belong with such things as ESP or letters to Santa Claus. The Parelli Horsenality paradigm is factual and real and could not be denied or ignored by onlookers over the course of the three days. When Linda Parelli introduced us to Horsenality, it came exploding into our lives as if fuel-propelled, and it left an indelibly clear impression of different horse's behavioural tendencies and how we can accurately deal with any horse.

From the moment the eight wild mustangs leapt from the back of a goose-neck and went nervously veering around the indoor arena, I was enthralled.

The steps I take when beginning to analyze a horse's Horsenality are as follows:

Step One: Is the horse confident and curious, using more of the left side of his brain? Or does the horse lack confidence and use the right, instinctive side of his brain? What's the most dominant behaviour of the two?

Step Two: Now, watch for the levels of energy and how the horses move, respond or react. See the difference between the high-energy, extroverted horse and the lower energy of the introverted horse. What is the most dominant here? Low energy or high energy?

Step Three: Now, look at your decision. For example, if you were seeing a confident, more curious horse (left-brain)

that has an average spirit level and loves to move around a lot, this could mean the horse is possibly a Left-Brain Extrovert.

Step Four: From that decision, begin to gauge what percentage of his behaviour lays in that Horsenality. Say it's 80% Left-Brain Extrovert with an average spirit. Then, for example, if the horse's situation changes, what does he tend to do? Does he keep the same energy level with his behaviour, or do you see it shift into another quadrant of the Horsenality?

- A. For example, if he shifts, does he begin to push against things, pin his ears, threaten others and dig his heels in? This could be signs of a Left-Brain Introvert. So, perhaps a Left-Brain Extrovert (80%) with Left-Brain Introvert (20%) tendencies?
- B. Then on the other side to this, when the situation changes, does the Left-Brain Extrovert horse become reactive, move his feet a lot, become bracy, high-headed, find it difficult to focus on your communication and difficult to disengage his hindquarters? If so, perhaps the Horsenality is a Left-Brain Extrovert (80%) with Right-Brain Extrovert (20%) tendencies when he feels unsafe.

These steps enable us to work out the Horsenality, the approximate level of his spirit and also how he can behave when changes occur. Therefore, as a trainer, it can give us an awareness of the most suitable path to keep any horse progressing effortlessly. It's nothing short of brilliant... and I would go so far as to say this is Linda and Pat's finest work, especially when first starting out with horses or at the beginning stages of anything new with a horse. So, with the "newness" of the whole experience for the mustangs, there was no better time to watch it unfold and to apply our Parelli knowledge.

Being perched up in the audience, watching as Pat and Kalley masterfully allowed the mustangs to drift around the arena to familiarise themselves, I couldn't help but reflect on the wonder of horses and their trust in us when they view life so very differently. We are at the opposite end of the biological scale, and still they turn loose to our ideas! Their reference in seeing the world can be totally different from ours, being prey animals. So, remembering that, when a horse comes across a unique and different experience, they have to create a first impression in their minds *instantly*. These first impressions are many and varied for them, especially if their state of survival is heightened and their nerve endings are peaked. These

new “sensory stimulus,” as Dr. Robert Miller calls them, can appear in many different forms: new sounds, new visuals, new smells, new movements, shadows, new textures of things that touch them or that they themselves wish to touch, and the list goes on and on. Within that “new” experience, they begin to make a decision: “Am I safe?” (left-brain) or “Am I in danger?” (right-brain). Sometimes they become “fence sitters,” meaning they need more of the correct information, usually for longer, to really make the appropriate conclusion in their brains, regardless of their Horsenality. So, before that time, their instincts can jump from prey animal to partner, until they are sure of a conclusion. Would Pat call this a yellow light?



PHOTO BY COCO

“If you want to change horses’ emotions, you have to change their minds,” Pat said as he rode around observing. To me, this meant the horse needs more acceptable information (I am safe!) to come up with positive reflexes to our requests. When they have enough “I am safe” - the placement of a blanket on their back for the first time, for example, is a positive experience - then we can continue. Pat calls this the green light. If we ask the horse to begin to walk with that blanket moving on their back, then again the horse senses a totally new situation because he’s now walking and has to again make a quick connection. Does he feel safe or in danger? If he feels that he is safe and the human then moves on quickly by asking him to trot, this is a totally new situation, as there is a change in gait. The horse attempts to trot but the movement of the blanket causes a feeling that he’s unsure of; he then begins to question things, loses rhythm and relaxation, and his behaviour changes for the worse. The “I’m in danger” response (Pat

calls this a red light) tells us that we need to adjust the situation or technique to cause the horse to accept what we want and allow him the freedom to form a positive conclusion for himself.

So, it was a delight to watch the handlers use so much repetition, retreats, dwell time, transitions, being a partner and a provider, waiting, mirroring the horse, observing behaviour, interrupting patterns, etc. The effortless improvements we saw had to do with helping build up positive, “safe” mental patterns for each horse, and the horses in return giving the green light. Nothing too fast at this stage, which could cause a brace, especially where adrenaline was involved or where it wasn’t the horse’s idea. “Ask for permission rather than forgiveness,” Pat said, looking up into the audience. “Everything means something.”

Both Pat and Linda were masterful at helping us look for any positive qualities of the horse’s state of mind, and their comments helped us understand the horse’s behaviour even better. They noted such things as: the level of the mustang’s heads; clamped or relaxed tails; understanding the bend in the mustang’s ribs with regards to our positioning; irregular speeds within the horse’s gait telling us when to approach and when to retreat; as well as which horses were leading the herd, in the middle, or always following at the back and how this can reflect the pecking order within the herd. They talked about the “drive line” on the mustangs and how to be “zone-specific” with this, especially so they could look at the humans without fear (from both eyes), showing us that the horse is reading the human favourably, even if it was just a fleeting moment at first. When a horse is pawing, it can indicate fear or frustration, while with others it can be a sign of dominance. “It’s what happens before or after the pawing that can tell us more accurately what it means,” Linda said.

They suggested we watch for the introverts showing more difficulty in the upward transitions and the extroverts showing more difficulty in the downward transitions. The Right-Brain Introvert can be determined from a Left-Brain Introvert due to the Right-Brain Introvert being slow on the outside but fast on the inside.

They talked about the behaviour-modifying techniques, also known as the Seven Games, from the ground. For the more left-brain mustangs, moving the forequarters away, backing them up effectively and waiting for them to lick and drop their heads a little was the way to go. This done correctly and before approaching again could have a simple but major effect on asserting leadership and

lets the mustang understand that there is a “game” or a purpose to this.

With right-brain horses, it can become more about being able to control the movement from the ground by appropriately disengaging or repositioning the hindquarters and waiting for signs of relaxation and acceptance.

Pat said, “What do we want to highlight with their behaviour? It must become meaningful for us and them.”

He explained that the level of respect you’re aiming to achieve as your mustang gains confidence with your leadership can be measured by the length and quality of the intention or response.

“Adjust to fit the situation,” he said, “as your mustang is the situation! Most people don’t think about what they think about! We’ve got to think about this.”

The morning of Day Two, we watched carefully for approximately twenty minutes as the horses moved around whilst spectators settled back into their seats. Surprisingly enough, the horses began to form two herds. One herd milled around and around in a circle until they stopped in the centre, while the other four went moseying around inquisitively towards the outer fringes.

This was the moment! The division of the extroverts and the introverts.

This was the moment!

It was set out in front of us all.

The division of the extroverts and the introverts.

Tah-dah the game was on! It was really clear now.

From then on, it was like a giant game of chess for me, full of strategies and moves. A fully-fledged reality transformation where every move meant something for both the predator and prey animal. The outside world was gone as it shrunk into tiny dimensions, as the complexities of each horse and how to approach them became more apparent. Sometimes it looked like the handler’s movements were marinated in molasses as the fearful, reactive horses were ready for flight or fight at any moment if things went too quickly for them. “Steady without being sneaky,” Pat was saying.

Perhaps this is what Pat means when he likens horse development with Martial Arts, and also the comparison of “boiling a frog.” It’s a matter of having enough personal

control to override our own predatory muscle memory and to increase the “heat” or the information to the horse, just one notch at a time. Progressing little by little, building a foundation of understanding for them. Pausing for a moment, or waiting longer at times for a response from the horse and then increasing again or backing off completely. There are no rules, just Parelli principles to keep us this side of trouble.

It’s what the horse needs that is important, which allows the horse to “learn how to learn.” Some horses could develop quickly in areas, while others needed more reassurance. For the handlers, there was no room for self-doubt, personal agendas or tension on the inside or the outside, as they applied their horse-taming and horse development skills.

We all know about forks in the road of life. Take one fork, and you arrive at the wrong destination. Take the other fork, and you arrive exactly where you wanted to be, effortlessly. At the junction, it can be hard to know which fork to take. The handlers were constantly meeting forks in the road. Sometimes they had to back-track and take the other fork. They were looking for the signs of both confidence and acceptance within the communication, so that the horses’ tolerance levels to new situations and ideas grew higher and higher without opposition.

The handlers had to become puzzle-solvers in every moment, using Horsenality as a guide. The immediacy of their responses and the application of tasks could encourage or destroy what they had developed so far. They needed to feel assured within themselves about finding just the right technique, at just the right time, for the window of opportunity to be open for the horse to answer and accept.

They got totally engaged in taking what was unacceptable for the horse at first and then turning it into a great idea for them, so even the horse was convinced. Taking the time that it took, so each horse became free to make new choices and try for the human. Pat calls this “having the brain to train.” Knowing what is appropriate, at what moment, by reading the horse.

Confidence is where it all started and confidence is where it ended. Self-confidence as a horse handler/tamer, confidence in the Parelli program, and watching the mustangs build confidence with the humans more and more each day. It was becoming - or had become - the horse’s idea. A wonderful three days, for all concerned, especially for those once-wild mustangs. 🐾



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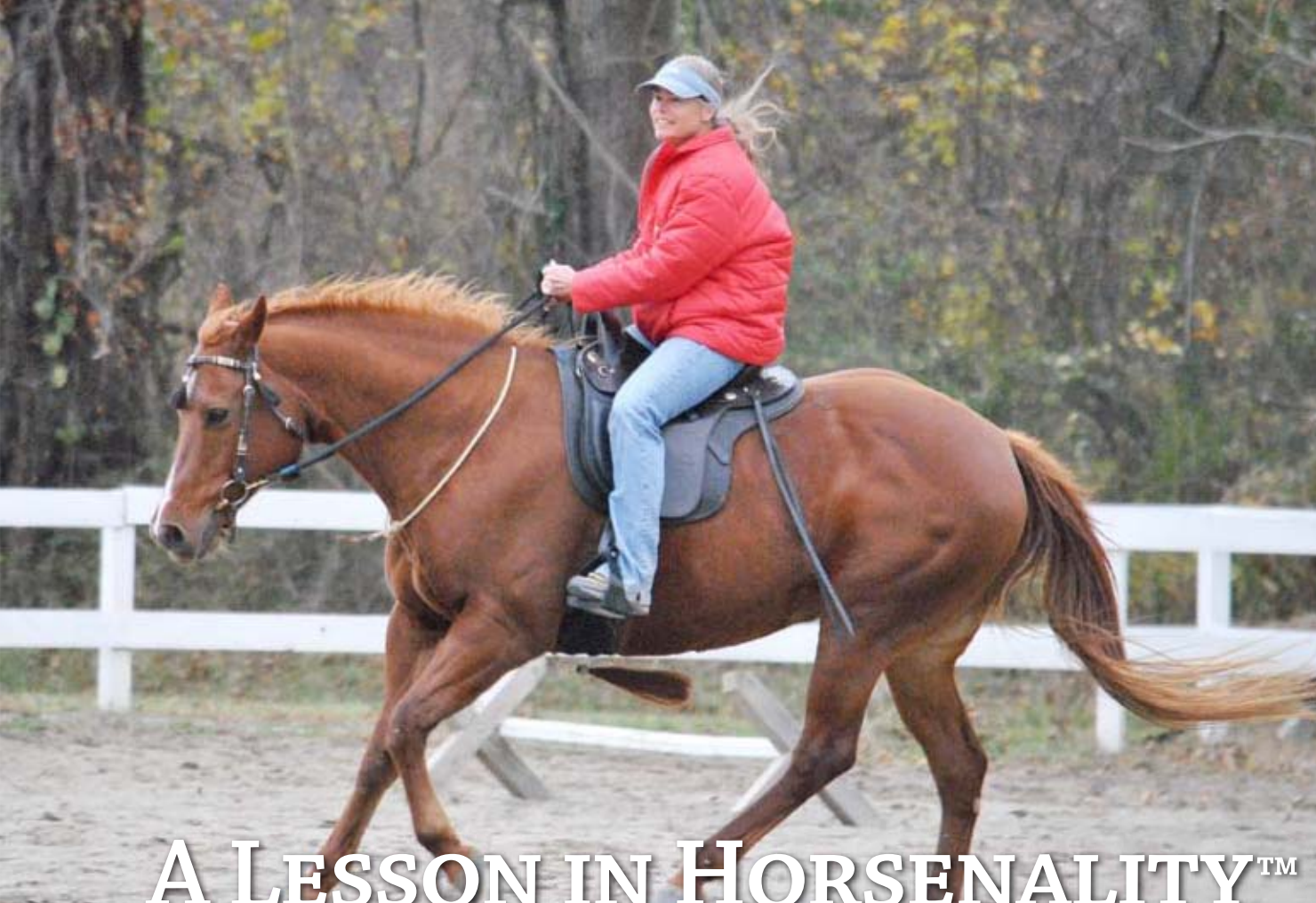
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A LESSON IN HORSENALITY™

by Jean Densen **Going Through Changes**

I recently attended an Level 4 clinic with 1- and 2-Star instructors taught by Jesse Peters at the Biltmore Estate located in Asheville, North Carolina. We spent some insightful time at the beginning of the clinic discussing Horsenality™ and Humanity™. Jesse marked out the four quadrants in the sand of the arena, told us where each Humanity/Horsenality was located and asked us to stand in the quadrant that represented our Humanity. We talked about how our Humanity changes according to the situation we are in and our confidence level in each situation. To further demonstrate, he voiced a situation and we would move within the four quadrants to show what our Humanity would be in that situation. How interesting! We were moving around the quadrants as he called out different situations. It was during this discussion that I got the first inkling that my horse may have some Right-Brain Introvert tendencies, but I didn't think too much about it.

Afterward we got our horses out to play On Line. I had been having problems with change of direction On Line and, of course, that made flying lead changes On Line difficult. I asked Jesse for guidance with this problem. He watched me play with my horse and played with him

as well. When he handed my horse back to me, he said that my Right-Brain Introvert was ready to canter on the 45-foot Line and to focus on trust in the draw.

Now that I am aware of my horse's changing Horsenality, I can be a better leader and teacher for him.

Wait a minute! My horse isn't a Right-Brain Introvert, he's a Left-Brain Introvert! Or so I thought... when I began to look at him as a different Horsenality in this situation, I could see that he was a Right-Brain Introvert. He could not give me two eyes and he would hesitate when I would draw him to me. What a revelation! Shame on me for not seeing it myself!

I know that humans and horses can change in different situations, but I didn't see it in my horse. I put him in the Left-Brain Introvert box and was treating him like a Left-Brain

Introvert when trying to get flying lead changes On Line. I was not fulfilling one of my responsibilities in our partnership: don't act like a predator, have an independent seat, think like a horseman, and use the natural power of focus. I was not thinking like a horseman! A horseman would have been more attentive to the changing Horsenalities and responded appropriately.

When I began to play with my horse as a Right-Brain Introvert with flying lead changes, and played with building his confidence, there was a huge change! Our rapport improved dramatically and we were getting flying lead changes on the 45-foot Line beautifully! I also began noticing Right-Brain Introvert tendencies when playing with other tasks; when I honored those tendencies, those tasks became fun and we began feeling successful more and more often! It's all a learning process and what a wonderful process it is! Never-ending self-improvement! What's even better is that my horse forgives me and continues to play with me!

Now that I am aware of my horse's changing Horsenality, I can be a better leader and teacher for him. Maybe we should all look at our horses with fresh eyes, try to be aware when their Horsenality changes and act accordingly. Our horses will love us for it! 🐾



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ADJUST TO FIT THE SITUATION

A Horsemanship Journey

by Micaela Johnson, 2-Star Junior Instructor

The Parelli Program is dedicated to teaching its students to hold tightly to their values and principles. The program encourages mental development, emotional and physical fitness, and the ability to “adjust to fit the situation” with imagination, grace, and confidence. During my time in the Mastery Program, I became aware of the positive change these skills would bring to my horsemanship journey. I wholeheartedly believe in commitment to never-ending self-improvement, and so I dedicated myself to becoming the best horsewoman and instructor possible during my time at the Parelli Campus. However, it wasn’t until I was blindsided by the unexpected events of this last year that I realized how vital Parelli’s values and principles would prove to be in my personal life as well.

In July 2011, I started an internship at Parelli, planning to stay on for six months, or more. I couldn’t get over how much the program had evolved and, with Berin Macfarlane’s help, was making huge strides with my two horses (no pun intended). Three weeks into my internship, I was blown away by the opportunity to move up to Pat’s barn as an apprentice, learning from Pat and Kalley Krickeberg daily! To say I was over the moon would be an

understatement. Being up in the barn made me feel like I had made it home. I fell in love with everyone there and was consistently challenged to get my “good better and my better best.” I have always believed that who you surround yourself with is crucial to your personal development. At the Parelli Campus, I had those “iron sharpening iron” types of relationships everywhere I turned. Since I thrived while being a part of this new family, and was excited about the challenging routines involved with the apprenticeship, one can understand why I found it so devastating to have to leave two weeks into it after finding out I had a golf-ball-sized growth eating away my lower jaw.

I realized how vital Parelli’s values and principles would prove to be in my personal life.

I returned home to California and anxiously awaited the biopsy results. I am not a patient person by nature, so the twelve days of waiting felt like an eternity to me.

We were all thankful, and relieved, to find that the growth was benign and treatable. The technical term for the fast-growing and destructive growth in my jaw was Ameloblastoma. Although it was the lesser of two evils – the other being cancer – I was still looking at a total of three to four operations to remove the tumor and rebuild my bottom jaw, using bone grafts from my skull. The last thing I wanted to do was twiddle my thumbs at home while we found the right surgeon and waited for an opening. So, the next day, I was back on a plane to Pagosa Springs to reunite with the dedicated band of friends at Parelli who had been supporting me from afar.

I ended up finding the perfect surgeon and setting up my first operation within ten days of my return into the Mastery Program. It was a quick visit back, but it gave me time to pack, say my goodbyes, and experience another, much more positive twist. When I returned it was clear that we were all to be in cutting competition mode. We were supporting Pat and Caton at a competition in Ignacio, CO and I had the privilege of riding with Pat to and from the show grounds. I didn't need coffee to wake me up that particular Saturday morning. My conversation with Pat acted

as my morning jolt when I asked why he hadn't brought Vanna to Colorado that summer. He told me that her feet don't do so well there and wondered why I had asked. I told him I was just curious because I knew that she was one of his favorite horses.

The [Parelli] Program encourages mental development, emotional and physical fitness, and the ability to “adjust to fit the situation” with imagination, grace, and confidence.

“Do you want her?” he asked, “I would love to see her go to a good home...and maybe you could bring her up with your dressage goals.”

“If you are serious,” I said, “then yes!”



It turns out that Pat was serious, and after a day of phone calls and planning, it was all lined up. I would be road-tripping home days later with my good friend Rachel Clarkson; my new horse, and partner, would be arriving to her new home just a few days behind us.

The Parellis, and everyone in their program, are so genuine about living out the values and principles that the program promotes

Vanna proved to be a beautiful distraction, and having her at home to play with softened the blow of having to leave the Parelli Campus early. She was instantly welcomed into my existing herd and won the hearts of everyone in my family and neighborhood. The first week she arrived consisted of scheduled appointments by local Parelli members wanting to come meet her. She must have felt like quite the celebrity.

Since the completion of my first operation, riding has been limited. Obviously, my father would have never wished any of this on me, but he is enjoying the opportunities that come with being the sole rider around here. Vanna is becoming his go-to gal and favorite trail horse. He ponies his Quarter Horse gelding off of her and allows my horse-crazed nephew to get his cowboy fix by riding doubles on her. She is physically, mentally and emotionally sound. We all feel so blessed to have her in our lives.

The Parellis, and everyone in their program, are so genuine about living out the values and principles that the program promotes that, even in spite of our geographical distance, I still felt their support, love and prayers for me when I needed it most. I went into my first operation feeling loved and supported by everyone there. These recent trials have allowed me to see just how important the seventh Key to Success is: Support. I made it through my first operation with great success, and as I approach my second operation I continue to feel the support from my Parelli family.

Pat talks about his mentors often. Most times this includes a story about him acquiring Ray Hunt's spurs. I think that having something that belonged to an influential mentor,

like Hunt's spurs are to Pat, can be a powerful motivator and encouragement to remind oneself of the principles upheld by that mentor, guiding the course of the recipient's continued development. Vanna is to me as Hunt's spurs are to Pat. She acts as a continued inspiration in my life, connecting me to the mentoring and principles of Pat Parelli. Even though I'm far from the Parelli Campus, and my family there, I still know their support. Parelli's principles and values are keeping me focused during this challenging season in life, and having Vanna around is a constant reminder that "adjusting to fit the situation" sometimes involves a generous helping of grace. 🐾



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GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The Magic is still here in Tassie

Belinda Park, Australia

Meet our savvy group! We are the Tassie Savvy Soakers and we live “downunder” in Australia. If you look on a map, you can see an island called Tasmania situated just below Victoria. We are only a small population, but horses of all disciplines are here in abundance.

Back in 1998, Pat and Linda made the trip down to our small state and held a demonstration day at our local showgrounds in Launceston. Pat had asked for a horse he could use for the demo and the crowd cheered as a small black mare with a white snip on her forehead entered the arena. Pat introduced her as Spider and told us how nobody could do anything with her and was considered untrainable. At the time, no one in that crowd knew that she was to become Pat’s superhorse Magic! There isn’t a student in Tassie that doesn’t have a special “soft spot” for the little mare that inspired us all that day!

At that time there were a handful of students following the program and we were lucky to have two top instructors to learn from, and students got together regularly for play days and clinics. As time passed, the instructors decided to go their own paths and left Parelli and the group slowly dissipated away, leaving those committed to the program to plod along on their own. My friends that I had been riding with dropped out of the program to pursue other things and I was starting to feel very disconnected from the lands of Parelli.

Until 2007 that is!

Pat and Linda announced they were coming back to Australia! Without hesitation, I booked tickets for both me and my (very supportive) non-horsey husband. Sitting in

the stands, I remember Pat’s words as he rode around the arena: “The seventh key to success is support... You only need two or three people to have a playday... go home and get your groups happening... we will support you!” Sounded like just what I needed, a fresh start! So myself and another student friend who had travelled with us returned home with a plan!

We contacted some other friends who we knew would be interested and held our first playday in an indoor arena as it was just coming into winter. We called ourselves the Tassie Savvy Soakers. Fast forward almost four years and we have over fifty people on our group list, with new faces turning up each time! We don’t have indoor playdays much anymore because we can’t all fit in!

Our members range from students just starting out to advanced students playing in Level 4 and beyond. Our playdays are held once a month at different venues... and the cold, wet winters don’t deter us either as we had our first ‘horseless playday’ this August. We have had beach rides, campouts, a New Year’s Eve camp, trail rides, cutting cows, mini tournaments and Christmas playdays. Since joining our group, many have made quite a lot of progress in their journey and recently two of our newest members have passed their Level 1 On Line! Pat is right: the seventh key to success is support... and I really believe that is why the Savvy Soakers are growing and progressing. Encourage, Motivate and Support... maybe that could be our group motto!

I am proud to be part of Parelli and our group. I don’t think a day goes by without someone from our group “connecting” on Connect and sharing their progress. We are Parelli... Thank you Pat and Linda (and Magic)! 🐾

"Amor Fati"**Amanda Flores, Colorado, USA***Maurice is always awake first.**Fully dressed in work jeans and a royal blue button down
He is swift. 5:30 AM and one cup of coffee is already half gone,
the horses fed, small movements beginning to spring into daylight.**Down the slope of the hill the horses chew devotedly.
I am burrowed behind dark red curtains in bed
Still swaddled in a quilt before surrendering to the morning
and the inevitability of day.**Summer, the white and pale yellow mutt,
With her swift, staccato slink, slumps through the front door
Open to the Mojave Desert unrolled in front of us.
The smell of sage brush already beginning to inflame the air.**The day humbles.
Continuities of sound and smell are what it turns on.
Wheelbarrows full of manure, grain pellets whisked in
Molasses and offered to dusty lips. An acceptance of duties
Of the necessary.**All of this before the day can give way to the unity of opposites.
Predator and prey in a kinetic tumult of understanding--
The fragility of the two creatures in fluidity.*

Amanda is currently a Creative Writing major and Junior at Colorado College, a small liberal arts school at the foot of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs. She has been a student of Parelli Natural Horsemanship for the past six years with her horse Beau, a goofy Left-Brain Introvert. Two summers ago she spent three months studying with Susan Nelson and Maurice Thibault, both 3-Star Licensed Parelli Professionals at their home, 3L Ranch in Tehachapi, CA. Her experiences at 3L Ranch were profound and impacted her daily life. Amanda is extraordinarily grateful for Susan & Maurice's love and support, guiding her to previously inconceivable success with Beau, including bridleless riding!

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PARTNER PROFILES

Brassy

Thoroughbred / Gelding / 16 Years Old / 17hh

Left-Brain Introvert / Playing in Level 3

Partner of Kate Taudevin, Mission Beach, Queensland, Australia

How did your horse come into your life?

I hadn't been involved with horses since I was 17, and at 25, after years of overseas travel, I decided to buy a horse. So what did I do? Bought the local paper, found an ad for a "17hh gentle giant" (surprise surprise, he was an ex-racehorse), went to look at him once, "rode" him around for 10 minutes, fell in love with his pretty chestnut coat and flaxen mane and tail, and promptly bought him.

And so Brassy Jim ("Brassy") entered my life. And boy did he enter it! For over 18 months I somehow survived riding Brassy daily around the local canefields. Leaving the paddock was like pushing a car with brakes on, then coming home was like pulling up a steamtrain - and we would arrive home a quivering, sweating mess (both of us!). I figured if I trotted him everywhere maybe that would "wear him out" - but amazingly all it did was make him super fit and super strong!

I advertised seeking help to "re-train" my crazy ex-racehorse but no one seemed interested. Luckily one of my friends suggested I look online for Parelli, and in 2007, Brassy and I attended our first ever Parelli clinic.

I have since attended as many clinics as possible and Brassy and I are now studying Level 2/3.

Tell us about the best moment with your horse.

I have two amazing moments that stand out for me with Brassy - the first was when we first took off the halter at one of our first clinics with David. Brassy started to drift off and David was coaching us through driving Zone 5 to bring Zone 1 back around - I nearly fell over when it worked! And to have Brassy then start to "stick to me" was the most incredible feeling I have ever experienced (the photo was taken during this session).

The second moment was at a private lesson with Carmen. Brassy has always found cantering on the circle difficult and his emotions would often rise and physically he would become uncoordinated. I was struggling to work out how to help him with this. During this particular lesson, our connection was lovely and strong, and when playing our Circling Game, Brassy offered me the softest, slowest canter I have ever seen and I very nearly cried. If I hadn't found Parelli I am sure that I would have either sold Brassy on or would have ended up injured or possibly worse. I now have so much to look forward to...

Send your partner's profile to savvytimes@parelli.com! Please limit your submission to 500 words. Answer any or all of the same questions you see here, and send us some high-resolution photos of your partner!

Check out Brassy's updates on Parelli Connect!

www.parelliconnect.com/members/597



PHOTO BY CLAIRE SPELLING

Appaloosa / Gelding / 9 Years Old / 16.1hh
Left-Brain Introvert / Playing in Level 2-3
Partner of Becki Ensell, Warwickshire, England

Comanchie

How did your horse come into your life?

I had always wanted an Appaloosa. Their beauty and even-temperament had always appealed to me. I couldn't afford a 'ready-to-go' adult, so my only way into the breed was a foal. I managed to locate a breeder not too far away that had a good selection of youngsters around 11 months old. Whilst originally being attracted by a photo of another youngster there, I soon found that after my visit all I could talk about was the one who was cheeky and kept biting us. I asked my father which he thought I should choose and he replied, "I think you have already chosen." I agreed, and it wasn't long till we had purchased him and arranged for his delivery to the stable I was renting. I visited several times before his arrival day came and was so excited when he finally came. They opened the back of the trailer; he looked bewildered, confused and beautiful. It took three people to push the youngster out and into the stable. I was already a Parelli member and had my Level 1 kit. From day one with me, he had entered a life of Parelli.

Tell us about the best moment with your horse.

For me, the best moment with Comanchie was the first time we really did Liberty. I had had an excellent On Line session where everything just felt right. I thought to myself, 'maybe?' Then I unhooked the 22-foot Line. He had never run off from me before but for some reason that moment, and my

intention, felt so intense that I was poised ready for his flight away. It never happened, and he looked at me as though just patiently waiting for my request. I was able to yo-yo him away, get him to stand on his pedestal, go sideways over a pole, jump the barrels and do Figure 8 around some cones. We really had a connection. Near the end, his life had come up and he did take a bit of a run-around, but one look from me to catch his attention, then walking backwards to draw, brought him back to me at a full canter. I trusted him not to run into me and he came to a skidding halt just before me. Completely magical – I was glowing for days.

What are your dreams and goals with your horse?

I would love to get an even greater bond with Comanchie. We have passed our Level 2 On Line assesment and hope to pass our Level 2 Freestyle soon. After this we will be aiming higher and higher. I would love for us to be able to perform a spotlight at a Parelli event. I hope to expose Comanchie to a broad range of disciplines. We may even do some driving in the future or Le Trec?

Of course I am also hoping that Comanchie will aid me in achieving a more personal goal of becoming a Parelli Professional.

Check out Comanchie's updates on Parelli Connect!

www.parelliconnect.com/members/250



TURNING NEGATIVES Into Positives

by Scott Teigen

Barney Regnier didn't come to Parelli because he was having troubles with a horse. He didn't come to Parelli because he caught an episode of *The Horseman's Apprentice* on television and wondered what it was all about. He came to Parelli – at the age of 80 – essentially to clear his head.

*Barney Regnier came to Parelli
– at the age of 80 – essentially
to clear his head.*

Barney moved from South Haven, Michigan – a beautiful resort town nestled along the shores of Lake Michigan – to Arizona in late 2009. His wife had suffered a stroke while visiting their daughter in Arizona, and Barney decided that it was best to keep close to his daughter from then on. They moved his wife into an assisted living facility in Arizona, and it was soon after that that Barney found Parelli.

"I started Parelli to keep my mind off of things," he says. "It's a great way to learn how to relax and calm down."

Barney bought his first horse in March of 2010. Scooter, a Left-Brain Introvert Mustang Paint, came to Barney with

some issues. He wouldn't allow Barney near his right side. Barney soon sent Scooter to a Parelli Professional for help, and within three weeks, the problem had been solved.



"He sent me an email that said, 'Our dentist is here for the horses; would you mind if we have him check Scooter out too?'" says Barney. "I said, 'Sure!' That's all it took. They figured out that his jaw was dislocated and his teeth were bad. They filed his teeth down a little, straightened his jaw out, and he's good as new now."

Plenty of people told Barney that he'd never ride Scooter. They told him he was too old, that Scooter was too rambunctious, and that he'd be better off selling him. So what did Barney do?

"I gained his confidence on his right side, and I passed Level 1 with a 1++," he says with a smile. "So now I'm working on my Level 2. I'm working with him on the ground a lot, even at Liberty. And I've been in the saddle a few times as well. Not bad for an 81-year-old, huh?"

However, in early September, Barney encountered another bump in the road. He was riding with his daughter on a hot Arizona morning when he passed out from dehydration and fell off of Scooter. He landed on his head, causing him to black out.

"My daughter was riding along next to me," he says. "She told me that when Scooter saw that I'd fallen off, he backed up so my foot came dislodged from the stirrup, and then moved next to me until she had helped me up."

"I was really lucky," he continues. "I'm 81 years old, I fell

off a horse, and I didn't get hurt except for a little bump on my head and a bruise on my brain. I went in a couple days later, and they said that I was back to normal. I just can't drive for a little while. I can't wait to ride again, but from now on, I'm wearing a helmet!"

"I really love what Parelli is all about. You can do anything if you just put your mind to it."

Four days after falling off his horse, Barney was at the Liberty and Bridleless Summit at the Pagosa Springs campus.

"You just have to stay positive," he says. "No matter what happens, make a negative into a positive. I think that's what's kept me going – a good attitude. I've had this attitude my whole life, and Parelli just reinforces it. I really love what Parelli is all about. You can do anything if you just put your mind to it."

If you ever need evidence of what you can accomplish with a positive attitude, look no further than Barney Regnier. He'll be the 81-year-old playing at Liberty with his horse. And you can be sure he'll be smiling the whole time. 🐾





EAT. SLEEP. PLAY

With Your Horse 2011

by Sharon Betts

As students of the Parelli Program, we watch the DVDs, read the books, and apply what we learn to our interaction with our horse out in the paddock or in the arena. We advance through the levels, learn more about ourselves and our horses. We tick off assessment tasks, officially or unofficially pass Levels of the program and continue moving forward with our horsemanship education.

We comfortably play with our horse in our environment each day and then slowly we start to wonder if we are ready to take all of this learning and apply it back into the “normal world” of horses, whether that be competition, trails, or simply riding in a brand new environment, testing whether we really do have emotional, mental and physical fitness on our behalf as well as our horses.

Rob McAuliffe believes he has developed a unique camp experience to help some of us that have advanced through the program and are ready to put our learning to the test. He says, “I believe EAT. SLEEP. PLAY with your horse is one of a couple different solutions for those that are looking for this next step, putting the relationship towards a purpose, and discovering where our holes may be in the foundation of our horsemanship and how

we can develop an even stronger partnership in which we challenge ourselves to do more. Students are better prepared to set clear goals with their horses based on what they have experienced after this camp in the rural Australian Outback.”



The first of these brand new experience camps was held mid-September 2011 and has been a vision of Rob McAuliffe's (4-Star Licensed Parelli Professional) for quite some time, as it involves his two life's passions: horses and the land.

Preparations began well over 12 months ago when Rob spoke with Sam Caporn (3-Star Instructor, WA) to see if he was interested and Sam was immediately on board.

Slowly we start to wonder if we are ready to take all of this learning and apply it back into the "normal world" of horses.

The first step was to find a location that was suitable for such a camp. Rob wanted to ensure that he could carry out a camp where horses could really get to stretch out and go somewhere. Most students don't have the luxury of riding for 10, 20, 30 kilometres at a time over new terrain; instead, they ride round and round in an arena or small paddock. This is where Ray and Leonie Spriggs (a dedicated Parelli student) enter the story, owners of Tongo Station, part of the Paroo River system.

Tongo Station, which is actually several stations, encompasses an area of approximately 1 million acres in the outback of NSW, near White Cliffs. Ray and Leonie are an amazingly generous and dynamic couple, and their bright personalities shone through the iconic red dust they live with.

Participants came from all over the eastern side of Australia; from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, to Sydney and outer areas of NSW, down to Victoria and its outer districts.

The shortest drive time was two days, with some people taking a slower, relaxed pace and spreading it out over six days, ensuring they arrived 'ready to go.'

Probably the most memorable part of the drive for all participants was the final 93kms from White Cliffs to the Tongo Woolshed. As the driving journey was slowly coming to an end, the anticipation of what would lie ahead was strong in everyone's mind.

Rob and Sam set up arrival so that students were welcomed by volunteers and shown where to set up camp and put their horses, making the transition calm and relaxed. This allowed everyone to settle in and prepare for the next step.

It wasn't too long before we were all sitting around the camp fire enjoying a cuppa and sharing our excitement.

Base camp was near a large Woolshed, so that we had access to showers and toilets, but everything else was outdoors, including a fabulous bush kitchen set up like I had never seen before. Rob's experience working and running bush camps for decades in the past was very evident.

This camp was well thought out, with great attention given to the horses' welfare. As most horses in our modern day life are usually kept in very small herds or even alone, and usually in relatively small paddocks, this was the perfect opportunity for the horse to also 'get back to basics' and find out what a herd environment is really all about. How wonderful it was to celebrate natural horsemanship in a completely natural environment.

There was a basic herd of five horses already established by the time students arrived, and Rob had horses integrated slowly to minimise the risks and help make a smooth transition. This was a wonderful experience to enjoy and learn from, as at first the horses broke up into three small herds and Rob showed us how to help the horses become 'one.' This was where the Rodear (Spanish word meaning "to surround") came in. Rob and Sam guided us through the process and it wasn't long before we all understood what to do. They were literally one big happy family.



Mornings were early, and started with a billy tea (or coffee) by the camp fire and a delicious cooked breakfast.

Our days were filled with fresh air, open spaces and the opportunity to learn with our horses in the many areas of horsemanship.

And our evenings were spent by the camp fire, eating fabulous food, chatting with new friends, enjoying the relaxing tunes of Sam and his guitar and listening to the sound of the lead horse's bell, reassuring us that the herd was nearby and happy.

How could it get any better than this?

Let's add in the chance to go somewhere and do something with our horses and push our limits as we know them.

So we come to Day 3. It started at 4am, when we saddled up our horses by torch light and packed our swags. With lunch and water packed on our saddles or in back packs, it was disclosed that there would not be a lunch break and we would be eating as we were riding.

We gathered together by the early morning moonlight and listened to Rob as he spoke of our goals for the day, and how we would deal with "the horse that showed up" and to "Go with the Flow and Flow with the Go." It was very inspiring and we said our goodbyes to the volunteers left behind and trotted off towards the rising sun.

There is no denying that it was a very long day in the saddle, but there were no complaints to be heard and we were amazed by the stamina that our horses had. It was clear to all that we humans would run out of 'go' long before our horses ever would. We moved over all kinds of terrain, usually at the trot, and the countryside was ever-changing. Flat grassy areas, red dirt, then 12-foot high scrub, undulating red dunes and onto a huge lake area that only appears after big floods. The environment was amazing and the only real sign of humans was some old wire fencing.

After every horsemanship session we would have a Remuda, where we would sit around and share, one by one, what we learned personally.

We used the knowledge from the Levels Program and Patterns and put it to a purpose; using the trail for the rail, bushes for bullseye patterns, fallen timber for obstacles, landmarks for point-to-point and small patches of timber for the serpentine pattern, to name a few.

The environment around us ensured horses and humans took on their mutual responsibilities. The ones that stood out the most seemed to be, for the horse, "Watch where you are going," and for the human, "Use the natural power of focus." These responsibilities took on a whole new meaning for everyone as we applied them in an environment completely new to us.



After a mere twelve hours in the saddle, we arrived at the new camp, which had been set up for us by the wonderful helpers and volunteers. Tired but filled with pride at the achievement we had all made, we watered and fed our equine friends and put them out into the herd before taking care of our own needs.

After every horsemanship session we would have a Remuda (American-Spanish word for 'exchange') where we would sit around and share, one by one, what we learned personally. These occasions are a great way to learn from others and them from you.

We spent the next two nights at this very basic camp at a gorgeous water hole. We celebrated Leonie's birthday in true outback fashion, and during the day we immersed ourselves in some Parelli exercises and then swam our horses in the Yantbangee Lake.

Want more? Let's ride back to the base camp.

Day 5 was another 4am start, and by the moonlight we all helped to pack up the camp before the riders took off for the return trip.

Riders were better prepared mentally, emotionally and physically, as we knew what to expect. It was another fantastic long ride, and the horses were relaxed and thinking forward, without being impulsive. They were part of the herd, without having to be next to a horse. We all moved together harmoniously and we would often canter off by ourselves and jump the odd log or duck around a tree just for a bit of a change and to get our horse's attention back onto us.

Rider Jacqui shared with us, "Pom got a chance to let loose and act like a horse over many long trotting and cantering sessions. I got to feel what it was like to ride a horse at the speed he wanted to go and feel the change from right-brain to left-brain when his rhythm kicked in and he was asking if it's okay to whoa. It was the best experience."

The last day arrived much too soon. I am sure we all feel the same about any Parelli Clinic or camp we attend, and this one was no different.

To say there were huge changes made everywhere you looked would be an understatement. Horses' and humans' lives were changed forever during this camp, and for the better.

As one of the riders, Marg notes shortly after returning home, "I had such an inspirational time. It really was life-changing for myself (I know that sounds a bit soppy, but it

truly was)... I found being back to work this week extremely hard and my mind was not on the job as it drifted back to Tongo and what we all had achieved. The journey to and from the station was in itself a journey and triumph! I have spent quite a bit of time with my horse this week, every afternoon, and I am even trying to get a morning session in on him."

Rob, as well as Sam, is an amazingly accomplished instructor who has the ability to isolate, separate and re-combine what is needed for the student to benefit the most.

The friendly, relaxed teaching style helped everyone to settle into camp and feel like a valued member of the team.

After speaking with every single student, and volunteer, it was clear that this "first-of-its-kind" camp was a huge success and will not be forgotten anytime soon. Volunteer Dannie says it best, upon her return home, "It has been harder than I thought coming back – the grass is too green, the TV is too loud, there are way too many cars on the road and someone has turned the stars down."

Rob looks forward to next year's EAT.SLEEP.PLAY with Your Horse Camp. He challenges each and every one of you to never settle on comfortable, challenge yourself everyday and never stop asking yourself, "how can I be 1% better everyday?" Enjoy the journey! 🐾

To find out more about everyone's experience from this camp, visit www.robmcauliffe.com.





by Jeanette Wright **on the Chisholm Trail**

One way to make an ACTHA (American Competitive Trail Horse Association) ride even better is to combine it with Parelli. That is what the Seven Savvy Sisters in north Texas did, and it was a huge success!!

The Seven Savvy Sisters is a group of women who are dedicated to improving their horsemanship skills and supporting each other through the Parelli Program. The group first came together when four of the women, and the daughter of another, entered the Savvy Spotlight in Ft. Worth, Texas. From that experience, they added another goal: to encourage other people to learn more about Parelli. Thus began the Seven Savvy Sister Gamedays held at Firehawk Ranch, in Aubrey, Texas. Firehawk Ranch, with the help of some of the Seven Savvy Sisters, has also hosted numerous Parelli instructors, such as David Lichman, Christi Rains, Jerilyn Caldwell, Jodie Hansen and Julie Payne.

One of the Seven Savvy Sisters, Debbie Adcock, is an active participant in the ACTHA rides. But she noticed that few of the riders were familiar with Parelli. So she decided

to offer them another perspective.

From that idea grew one of the best ACTHA rides any of us have ever attended! Our theme was the Chisholm Trail, since the original trail went through our ride's location at the LBJ National Grasslands in Decatur, Texas. All of the Seven Savvy Sisters and many of the participants dressed up in costume from the 1870's. Each of our stations for the ride had an old west theme, with signs above each station.

One way to make an ACTHA ride even better is to combine it with Parelli.

Registration was at the Sheriff's office, the Silent Auction was at the Town Hall, the Raffle and Poker Run were at the Saloon, and the catered Barbeque was at the Feed Lot. Instead of numbers hanging from people's backs, we gave the adults cattle tags at the Livery Stable, which attached

to the horse's bridle. The children got "branded" with their number face-painted on their cheeks. To set the mood we played music from 57 western movies and TV shows such as *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*, *The Big Country*, and *Lonesome Dove*.

There are eight parts to our successful ACTHA/Parelli ride.

First, we had a lot of help from our group, friends of our group and husbands. Before the ride, one of the Seven Savvy Sisters designed a flyer, which was posted throughout the area and emailed to hundreds of people. We printed up a list of ACTHA members within a 50 mile radius of our ride, and called each of them to tell them about the ride. The day of the ride, we had people helping direct traffic, registering people, assisting at each of our money-raising stations, sending riders out on the trail, riding the trail as safety riders, and serving food. We also had one husband and wife team acting as radio relay station to keep base camp, the judges, and the safety riders in communication with each other.

The second part, the day before the ride, judges Christi Rains, Sharon Lindy, Jerilyn Caldwell and Jodie Hansen donated lessons to assist people with their ride. One participant, an experienced ACTHA competitor who has a solid horse, was not placing as high as she had hoped in the rides. Christi gave her pointers on Fluidity, Horsenality™, how to maintain contact with a loose rein to allow her horse to drop its head and carry itself in a nicer frame, and changed her body position from chair seat to sitting on her balance point. She learned to use her body more and her reins less. The next day, she placed second in the Pleasure class! She was thrilled and said the lessons helped her be a better partner for her horse.

The third ingredient to our successful ACTHA/Parelli ride was that each of our six obstacles represented one of the Parelli Seven Games. Each of these descriptions was for Open class. Pleasure was slightly easier.

Obstacle #1: Side Pass (Sideways Game). From tree, take the lariat off the tree. Side your horse from the tree over to the cone until the rope is taut, pause, then side your horse back to the tree. Put the rope back up on the tree.

Obstacle #2: Back (Yo-Yo Game). Back your horse up the hill until you pass the cone on the hill behind you. Walk forward down the hill and continue on.

Obstacle #3: Bridge (Squeeze Game). Start at cone, tell the judge which foot will touch the bridge first. Walk across the bridge.

Obstacle #4: Gate (Porcupine Game). At gate do a right hand push to open the gate. Then back thru and a right hand push to close the gate, holding the gate the entire time.

Obstacle #5: Canter (Circling Game). Starting at first cone, trot to the second cone, then go into a left lead canter, making a complete left circle. Come out of the circle and stop at the third cone.

Obstacle #6: Fly Spray (Friendly Game). Dismount from horse. Without moving your feet, back horse up 3 steps to get the horse out of your space. Turn horse's forehand away from you. Pick up fly spray and spray horse on the neck, one leg and belly.

At Obstacle #6, riders were not judged on their ability to move their horse, but the Parelli riders excelled at that task.



Fourth, we had Parelli instructors as judges - Christi Rains, Jerilyn Caldwell, Jodie Hansen, Julie Payne and Jennifer Durant. The exception was one judge, Chris Ruthven, and while he is not a Parelli instructor, he has attended many Parelli clinics and is an excellent colt starter and horse trainer. Our top-notch Parelli instructors are from Texas and offer clinics in this area, as well as traveling to other parts of the country.

Fifth, during lunch, while riders were waiting to hear who won the competition, we had Parelli instructors Jerilyn Caldwell and Jodie Hansen perform demos. Most of our

audience were non-Parelli members, so Debbie Adcock explained what was being done and why. While Jerilyn played with one of the horses at Liberty, people thought he was being dominant, until Debbie explained that he was playing. Then they were very intrigued and wanted to see more. One person in the audience said afterwards, "Watching Jodie ride with those sticks and nothing else made a believer out of me!"

We also entertained the audience with an oral history of the Chisholm Trail including the story of a man who first rode the trail when he was ten years old. Few people realized that from 1860-1880, more than 35,000 men took more than 6 million cattle out of Texas up to Abilene, Kansas. It was common on these trail rides for a dozen men to drive thousand of cattle, spread out over a couple of miles.

Sixth, we had many wonderful prizes, including Parelli equipment and DVDs. One DVD set went to a junior rider who is about ten years old. She was very excited to go home and watch the DVDs.

Seventh, we incorporated many ways to raise money. At the start of the ACTHA ride, we asked various companies and individuals to donate prizes. We received more than expected, and more than the number of prizes we needed. With the excess, we decided to have a Silent Auction. There were 25 items, including a trip to Orlando, Florida worth \$600, a Flowtrition Seminar worth \$350, a wine basket worth \$175, private lessons from each of our local Parelli instructors, and much, much more.

Another money-raiser was a raffle. People could buy one raffle ticket for \$10. Everyone who took a private lesson with one of our Parelli instructors, which cost \$35 for an hour, received four raffle tickets.



One more way we raised money was a poker run. It cost \$5 each person. At the first five obstacles, each rider would take a card, and at the sixth obstacle they could exchange one of their cards. The person with the best hand won a prize.

The eighth part to our huge ACTHA ride success was that we had over 60 riders, and with the money we raised from them, as well as a silent auction, a raffle, a poker run, and Parelli lessons, we raised \$3,900! All of it has been donated to the Parelli Horsemanship Fund! People are already asking when the next Seven Savvy Sisters ACTHA ride will be held, and can we do a two-day ride next time! Our answer: absolutely YES! We look forward to hosting our next ride and educating more people about Parelli! 🐾

A few days after the ride, one rider wrote the following comment about her first ACTHA/Parelli experience:

First, we loved Christi Rains. She was terrific with all of us and the girls loved her.

Jodi was great too. She was good with kids, like you said. She helped me because she identified that our tack was ALL WRONG! Horrible really. I didn't know.

I should have known, but I just didn't. Then she said she'd look to see if we could borrow a pad and when she brought one the next day she said her mom insisted we keep it. It was really good because we don't have extra

money just laying around with 4 girls and hay prices.

Anyway, everyone was so sweet and the pretty lady who read the story was entertaining and helpful and no one was cowboy snobbish. I can't handle that. I just don't enjoy being around people like that, so I'm glad you encouraged me to come with my girl.

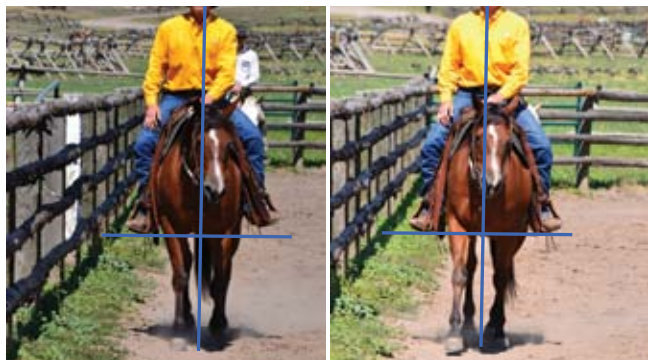
I can't believe how well Big Boy and Lilah did. It was her birthday present and she didn't even think she would place. The grooming tote is adorable! And I love my Parelli bag.

WHY does my saddle... go crooked?

#1 Reason: You are weighting your stirrups unevenly.

If your saddle goes to the right, this means you are not putting enough weight in your left stirrup. To correct this, feel like you are

standing in that stirrup for awhile - don't lean, this is more about opening your hip and pushing your knee down. Many of us have brains that somehow compensate for our imbalanced posture while in the saddle. We don't even know we're riding like that!



... slide forward?

#1 Reason: You are leaning back!

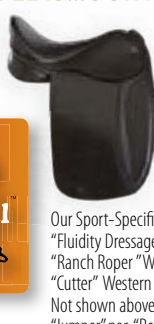
Saddles do not slide uphill. When you lean back, you put more

weight on your horse's forehead, which causes the horse to hollow his/her back. Learn how to sit in a more balanced way: shoulders over hips. It will help your horse to round up under you, travel more properly and offer a smoother ride. Note: your saddle must not lock down tight on or behind your horses' shoulders.



Parelli Saddles are built to be comfortable for horses and riders. They help correct rider errors by telling us what we need to change. If we wish to ride as partners horses can enjoy carrying, we must increase our body awareness and use tools that give them room to move.

"WE DO NOT JUDGE HOW GOOD A SADDLE IS...OUR HORSES TELL US!"



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(these are the most versatile
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LYNDSEY'S FIRST Teaching GOC

by Kris Fulwiler

Well, it all started one morning in Reno. And lucky for us, what happens in Reno does NOT stay in Reno!

I was sitting with Lyndsey Fitch at the welcome/check-in table for the Wild Mustang event at the Reno coliseum. Lyndsey had recently been licensed to teach Linda's Game of Contact. In fact she was, at that time, the ONLY person with those qualifications! So I was congratulating her. Lyndsey had spent years under Linda's tutelage, and it was so exciting that she could now go out in the world and help spread this groundbreaking concept. It suddenly occurred to me that I could have her come to Wisconsin to teach it! So I asked, and she said yes! The engagement was on.

Now for the guest list. It was short notice, but the response was fantastic! Everyone wanted to come! Many had prior commitments, but longed to be free to attend. As it turned out, we had eight riders, and a few auditors who traveled long distances to attend the 3-day clinic. We all knew how important these concepts would be to our horsemanship.

Lyndsey had never been to Wisconsin before, so I was hoping that the leaves would be blazing this October! We weren't disappointed. She also expressed an interest in seeing a large dairy farm. Would time allow? You know how these instructors are. Get in, get it done, stay to help beyond the clock, make sure everyone's questions are answered, and then hope to get to the airport on time!

It was so exciting that she could now go out in the world and help spread this groundbreaking concept.

And of course, there were Wisconsin cheese curds that had to be eaten!

The riders had all found their way to the clinic location the night before. It was cold, windy and rainy. There

were a couple people who were planning on camping in their tents! Fortunately, the home on the property was “between renters,” so they were able to sleep in comparative comfort in the little red brick house.

The morning of the clinic also proved to be cold and windy, so again we were fortunate to have the little house in which to watch the PowerPoint presentation. It was clear that Lyndsey knew what she was talking about. She was calm, articulate, and able to answer all the questions that were asked without hesitation. And she more than carried this composure out into the arena where we gathered with our horses. I was proud of her. Who of us could have, in any profession, be sent out on our *first* assignment and be so confident and self-assured? Parelli Professional for sure.

It was clear that Lyndsey knew what she was talking about. She was calm, articulate, and able to answer all the questions that were asked without hesitation.

We started out with a lot of simulations, which would be peppered in throughout the clinic. As with all Parelli simulations, they gave us an idea of what the horse is feeling, and what we need to feel before we get to our horses. It can be pretty eye-opening what our horses are expected to put up with from us bumbling humans!

The wind in the afternoon was relentless, and it was challenging to hear, but we managed to get the concepts of steady rein, and Stage 1 of the Game of Contact.

Saturday morning arrived with sustained winds of 40mph! Yikes! We decided it would be better to transport the group a mile down the road to my indoor arena. Smaller, yes, but with the groups made smaller we would all be able to hear and get the help we needed. I made sure I had hot water going for chocolate and cider. Every little bit of heat helps! Naturally, the last two weeks before Lyndsey came were absolutely gorgeous fall days! But that's how October goes.

Lyndsey commented that things we were doing with our horses were ‘counterintuitive’ to what we might have learned in the past or might think is correct. And that

patience is vital, because experimenting is how our horses learn! So we needed to allow both the horse AND human freedom to experiment to let this new concept take root.

Saturday night, we got to relax a bit with a little party at the castle. Everyone enjoyed the tour. Terry really likes giving the tours! We grazed and sipped all evening. Then dreamt of Game of Contact.

Sunday arrived, and it was still breezy, but the sun was out and we decided to go back to the big arena. I was able to get my big sound system up and running—with a little feedback—but we could all hear, so away we go!

While we were still mostly in Stage 2, some of us were able to dabble into Stage 3. Of course sometimes we had to go all the way back to Stage 1. Take the time it takes.

The end of Sunday came, and we all had made a lot of progress. We bid farewell to our auditors and a few riders. Monday would be a special morning just for instructors.

Then we went to get Lyndsey those Wisconsin cheese curds. She loved ‘em! 🐾





PHOTO BY OUGLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

FREEDOM HORSES

by Dutch Henry

Healing Hearts with Horses

One in four American women have been the victim of mental, physical or sexual abuse. That's a staggering and sobering statistic, isn't it? For years, Betsi Bixby has wanted to find a way to help these women heal. Betsi had never been a victim of abuse; in fact, as she will tell you in her upbeat and cheerful way, she has had a rich and rewarding life, filled with love and blessings. It was some time ago that she heard a particularly upsetting story that just wouldn't let go. The story haunted her. As time went on, she heard others. "I remember wondering then if God was sending me a hint," Betsi said.

Being a lifelong horsewoman, she is well aware of the healing spirit of the horse, and she had seen the wonders of equine assisted therapy. It was at a benefit ride for Morning Star Ranch, a therapeutic riding center that's devoted to helping at-risk children, that a plan began to take shape. When she saw the wondrous change come over the children at Morning Star Ranch, she asked herself, "Why can't we do this for abused women?"

A few months later, Betsi had the opportunity to hear Monty Roberts speak. "When he spoke about reaching out and helping others, I felt as if he was talking directly to me," Betsi said. "I thought about the past few months, the stories I'd heard, the Morning Star Ranch, and now Monty's talk. I felt as if God was nudging me to get moving. As if he was asking me to help these women who were afraid to ask for help."

Betsi knew she would need a reliable conduit to reach women who were enduring abuse or had been abused and were unable to let go. Sadly, often getting over the abuse is harder than getting out of the abuse. She approached Freedom House, a marvelous organization that is devoted to helping abused women and girls cope with the wounds their abuse had left them with. Betsi's plan to use horses and let the women feel the healing powers in a horse's heart was received with so much enthusiasm at Freedom House that they started working on plans to make it happen right away. A dedicated group of about 12 women quickly banded together to make the idea a reality.

Many times, abused women will turn inward, putting up a hard exterior. It is not uncommon for them to forget how to smile. Forget how to feel happy. Forget how to make decisions. They can become so conditioned, beaten down physically and mentally, they simply forget how to make choices. Many not only forget how to make choices; they lose the ability to even think they should be allowed to make choices. Even crueler, they can lose the ability to love. Or accept love. A problem often seen in typical therapy is that battered women and girls learn to move on, sort of, but often don't learn how to open their hearts again. That's where Betsi's plan and the spirit of the horse come in. Betsi knows the spirit of the horse can open their hearts again.



Helping to create
a better world...

Within weeks of Betsi's first meeting with Catherine Tietjen of Freedom House, they set up a pilot program and brought the first participant to Tammy Sronce's Echo Ranch in Weatherford, TX and introduced her to Tammy's horse, Memphis. "It was overwhelming," Betsi said. "She stood in the barn and looked at the horse, just looked at him. Then she walked over and touched him. We could almost see the comfort flow from Memphis to the girl."

In the weeks that followed, more women came from Freedom House to Echo Ranch, and the visits began to develop a structure. They generally began with just introducing the women and girls to a horse and simply letting them absorb the horse's spirit, then brushing the horse. They would lead the horse, even saddle, and ride, starting in the ring. If they wanted to, they could go on a supervised trail ride. But everything is the participant's choice. Except for matters of safety, the participants are never told what to do. For many of them, it is the first time in years that they were allowed to, or had the desire to, make a choice. "We can see them gain confidence from the horses, as they interact with them. They relax while they're brushing a horse; sometimes they'll hug and kiss the horse. Often, they'll tell us it was the first time in a long time that they didn't think of their problems," Betsi said.

Participants ranged from 16 to 60 years old, from women who had horses before to those who never did but always dreamed of having one. But one thing was always the same: the women at some point always smiled. "They might smile when they first meet the horse and ask his name, or when they brush him or when they sit in the saddle. But they always smile at some time," Betsi said. "There's a special magic in a horse's spirit that connects and can help heal. Their spirit is the heart of our program. We just put them together." Betsi's program adopted the name Freedom Horses in honor of the work they do at Freedom House.

The beauty of the Freedom Horses program is it is just that: it's a program. A template. "Think of it as Big Brothers and Big Sisters," Betsi said. "Just as they are able to help children anywhere in the country, so do we want to help abused women anywhere in the country." From the beginning, from the very first meeting with Catherine at Freedom House, the plan has been to develop a program that could be used by anyone with the desire to help abused women everywhere.

With Catherine's help, Betsi, Tammy and their volunteers have put together a comprehensive, step-by-step plan that anyone who has the desire to help heal hearts can use with their own horses at their own home. "We call it the Freedom Horses Tool Kit," Betsi said. Everything is charted out, from

how to select and train volunteers to suggestions of activities. "For instance, one thing we have found to really help is involving an equine massage therapist," Betsi explained. "Many abused women do not want to be touched. But something happens when they watch the relaxation come over a horse during a massage. It's often the first time in years they can relate to touching without fear."

Freedom Horses' mission is to help women gain courage, compassion and confidence through interactions with horses and their volunteer owners. Just organized in June,



they already have more volunteer owners ready to welcome women to their barns and experience the healing powers of the spirit of the horse, and two other women's shelters ready to test out the program in their towns. To learn more about Freedom Horses, visit their website www.freedomhorses.org

Freedom Horses started in Weatherford, Texas but is expanding to all states, so whether you are in Texas, Maine, Florida or anywhere in between, if you have a horse that is willing to help heal hearts, reach out to Freedom Horses. They will help you help. 🐾

Dutch Henry is a freelance writer and novelist who resides in Virginia with his wife, Robin, of 35 years, horse, dogs, cats and chickens. You can reach Dutch at dutchhenry@hughes.net. His novel "We'll Have the Summer" is available on Amazon and Dutch's website www.dutchhenryauthor.com.



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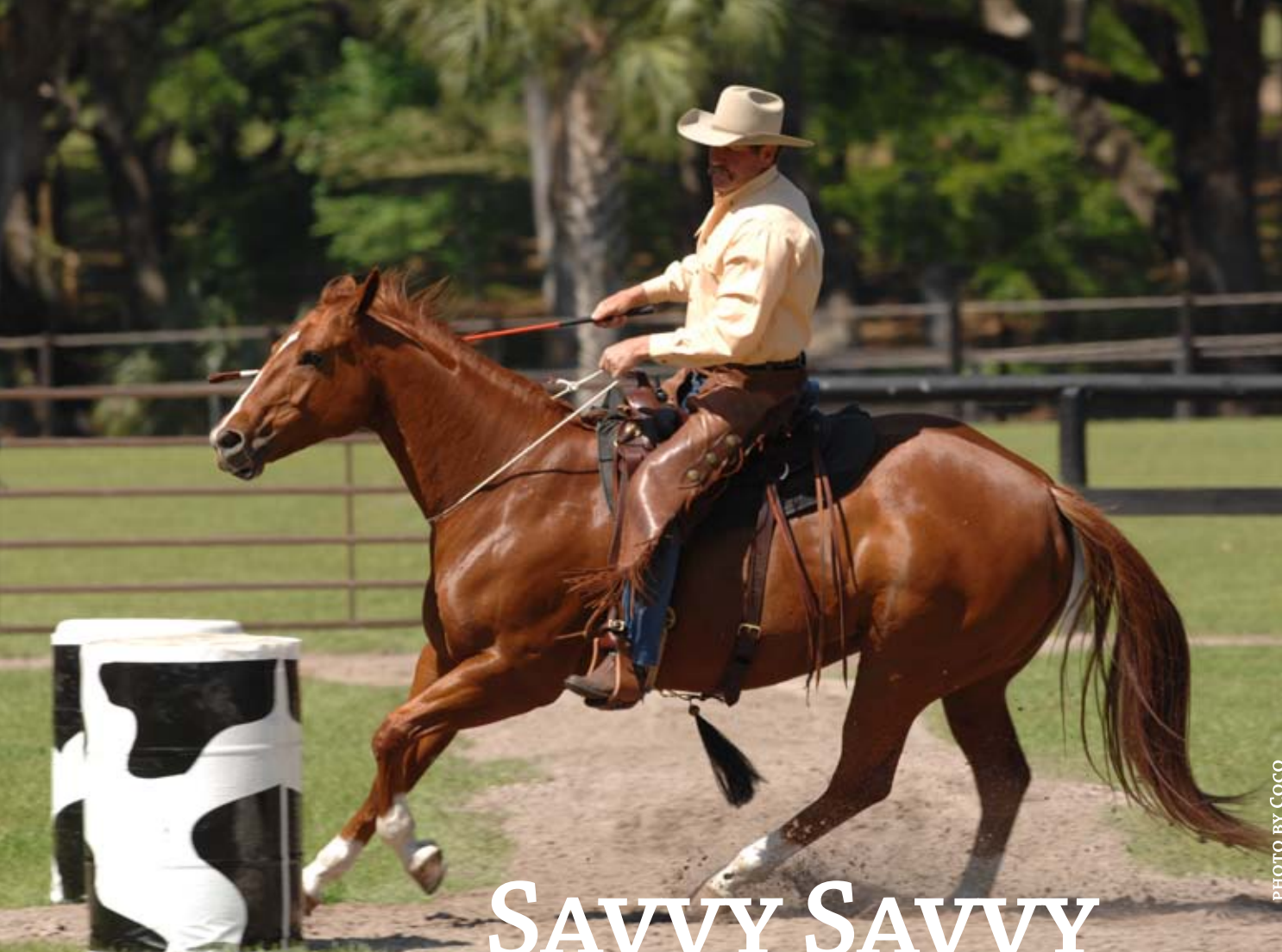


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SAVVY SAVVY

Becoming a Great Puzzle-Solver

by Pat Parelli

The goal of the Parelli Program, at its very core, is empowering people to have horse savvy. Now, “savvy” means knowing when to be, where to be, why to be, what to do when you get there, and when to quit doing what you’re doing. Eventually it becomes second nature; it’s a logic you use to solve horsemanship puzzles.

The goal of the Parelli Program, at its very core, is empowering people to have horse savvy.

A lot of times, I’m asked “What do you do?” questions. “What do you do to trailer load a horse?” “What do you do with a horse that bucks?” “What do you do with a horse that runs off?” All of these questions are tests of the rider’s savvy. Once you become truly savvy, you understand how to turn these questions into games.

There are two types of games in the world – finite games and infinite games. Finite games are those with a beginning, middle and end. You always know what the score is, where you stand, when it ends, and that’s that. Infinite games are things like horsemanship. It’s not only something that’s infinite for each of us as individuals; it’s also infinite in the global sense, in that we’re learning from what Tom Dorrance shared with us, and he learned from what others shared with him, and so on. It’s a series of wisdoms, a series of decisions about which philosophy to follow. Once you’ve made those decisions, then it’s up to you to become a great puzzle-solver.

In this sense, becoming “savvy” means becoming a great puzzle-solver.

Now, once we understand that, we move on to learning the inner workings, the components, of becoming a great puzzle-solver. The first component to this is understanding that there are seven elemental games in each of the Savvys. It’s important to understand that, no matter what

level you are, no matter which Savvy you're focusing on, the Seven Games always apply.

The second component is learning how to make a game out of everything. For example: if your horse doesn't like to be caught or haltered, how do you cause your idea to become his idea? How do you get him to want to do those things with you? In a sense, there are not only the seven elemental games, there are many, many other, more specific games. There's the Catching Game, the Lead Change Game, the Follow the Rail Game, the Trailer Loading Game. You can't limit yourself; be creative. All these games use love, language and leadership in equal doses; in the end, you win his respect, and he wins a leader.

There are not only the seven elemental games, there are many, many other, more specific games. You can't limit yourself; be creative.

The next major component is understanding Horsenality™. If we understand that we've got the seven elemental games, as well as the ability to make a game out of any objective we have, we then need to understand that we have to keep the horse's Horsenality™ in mind. Your approach to playing the Follow the Rail Game with a Right-Brain Extrovert needs to be very different than your approach with a Left-Brain Introvert.

Next is the Game of Contact. Now, a lot of people are under the assumption that the Game of Contact only applies to one Savvy: Finesse. But that's not the case. When you look at what the Game of Contact is really about, it's all about getting your horse's attention. No matter if it's the first time you walk into your corral or the 1000th time, you're trying to get your horse's attention. It's a game – a game of mental contact. Every time you pick up the reins, you're getting his attention, you're making contact.

When you think about it, something as commonplace as shaking hands is a game of contact. Some people know how to play the game, how to adjust their handshakes based on who they're meeting, the situation and the circumstances. Other people don't know how to play the game well, and they're pretty easy to pick out: they're the people who will

either crush your hand or give you a soft, weak handshake. They don't have a sense of subtlety or situation.

When you begin to recognize these things, you'll realize that there's always a game of contact. Even social media is a game of contact – that's why Parelli Connect is so popular; it offers a place to connect and make contact with fellow horsemen around the world.

So we've got 1) the seven elemental games, 2) turning objectives into games, 3) recognizing Horsenality™, and 4) the Game of Contact. Once you understand and can utilize those four components, I believe you can become an effective puzzle-solver. You become empowered with this thing we call "savvy."

Now, savvy just happens to be the hardest thing in the world to teach people. This is because there's nothing dogmatic about it; there are no pat answers (pun fully intended). But once you truly have a grasp on these components, you'll become horse savvy, and you'll know when to be, where to be, why to be, what to do when you get there, and when to quit doing what you're doing.

This is why Level 4 has become the most empowering thing I've ever seen. When people get to Level 4 in all Four Savvys, that's when their savvy really starts to kick in. Oftentimes, everything before Level 4 is frustrating, but everything after Level 4 is fascinating – especially if you buy into the concept of the Infinite Game: Horsemanship. 🐾





RIDING IN GROUPS

by Linda Parelli

Confidence & Strategy

Some horses are great when riding in groups, but others can get quite emotional – defensive, aggressive, impulsive, kicking, charging... not much fun for either of you! Here are some ideas to help you prepare yourself and your horse for a more safe and enjoyable experience, naturally.

We have to be able to think ahead and rehearse in our minds what to do in every kind of situation because we can't always simulate everything with our horses.

Confidence

I once heard Ray Hunt define confidence as “being prepared for the unthinkable.” I love that! Now the challenge is to think about what the unthinkable would be and prepare for it.

I remember many years ago, riding into a nest of bees out on the trails in Colorado. Pat yelled at me: “Gallop!” It is the exact opposite of what I would have done. I was already stopping and trying to swat at the bees landing on my horse. As a result of learning that, it became a regular part of teaching preparation for trail riding in all my courses. We have to be able to think ahead and rehearse in our minds what to do in every kind of situation because we can't always simulate everything with our horses.

Some people and some horses are naturally more confident. They tend to be the left-brain types, but that is not a guarantee. People can lose their nerve for whatever reason, be confident in one situation and not another... same with horses. So it's important not to make any assumptions – always check things out. Success is all about preparation.

When it comes to riding in groups, you have to check both your horse's confidence and your own. It's great if your horse is calm and experienced, but even the most quiet horse can start to have trouble if the rider gets tense or panicky. The same goes in the opposite situation, because a confident rider tends to neglect their horse's needs because they are able to 'wrestle' the horse through problems rather than actually solve them. Sure, it can be

done, but it's not a good experience for the horse or for future success. And it can be very dangerous.

Let's do the savvy thing and be prepared.

Strategies

Keep it simple. You actually don't have to go into a public area to practice because, with a bit of forethought and arrangements with friends, you can do it all where you usually ride your horse. Here are the main elements to address in your preparation:

1. Equine Psychology
2. Approach and Retreat
3. Simulations
4. Repetition and Testing

1. Equine Psychology

Always try to think about things from your horse's point of view, because it's different from a human's. Horses are herd animals, so when in a group, herd dynamics prevail: who is most dominant, what is the pecking order, where am 'I' in the pecking order, if one runs we all run... etc.

- Horses that worry about the proximity of others tend to be low in the pecking order. They are defensive, have a big bubble, are prone to kicking and appear aggressive when horses step into their personal space, which can be very big. Know that this is not aggressive; it is self-defensive behavior. They don't want to let others get anywhere near them; they try to avoid battles.

Your best approach is to protect your horse's space by waving the other horses away. Even if you can't touch them, your horse will feel that you are protecting them and settle down. Use a Carrot Stick or twirl your rope at them. Just be sure not to spook them or scare the rider!

- Dominant horses tend to present different challenges. They usually want to go towards the other horses, sniff noses, bite, squeal, strike and have the tendency to charge at them to drive them off. They are willing to fight to assert their dominance.

Your best approach is to not let them sniff another horse and keep your distance. What works well is to turn Zone 1 away and get them busy with a task. The more control you have over what your horse is focusing on, the better.

Now, having mentioned a couple of strategies, the real secret lies in getting the relationship with you so strong that they don't even care about the other horses. All they should focus on is you and as long as you are calm and on task, so are they. This means you have to be calm and

focused, which may mean not chatting with your friends for a while! The goal is to get your horse calm, connected and responsive to you first. Now, if you don't have this when by yourself, it will be impossible in the company of others so make sure you are aiming for this every time you play with your horse on the ground or when riding.

2. Approach and Retreat

The best way to build confidence in horses (and humans) is with approach and retreat. You approach the thing that is difficult and, before it becomes unbearable or frightening, you back off to where it feels safe again, then reapproach. Repeat this until, one by one, each threshold disappears and the horse can move forwards without hesitation or tension. The worst you can do is feel the fear and do it anyway, pushing through regardless. That just does not work when it comes to prey animals... and it's dangerous.

How this relates to riding in groups with a horse that is afraid to be with others is rather simple... you start with just one other horse! Then you add one, and another and another, etc. This may not be all on the same day, but that is also quite possible so long as you don't add another horse until your horse is completely relaxed each time you added one.



3. Simulations

- Walk and circle: Ride in the same direction at the walk, turning little circles every so often. This helps horses not get so concerned about another horse following them. Remember – always stay out of the kick zone! That’s about 9 feet, or one “horse-length.”
- Pass each other from opposite directions: Start with a generous distance that slowly gets smaller but be sure to widen a little the moment you feel any of the horses get tight. Try to do this before the horse reacts, and pretty soon he will not have any issues at all about other horses coming towards him. What upsets horses is when they need to get out of another horse’s bubble but are forced to stay on the same track. It can lead to total panic.

When it comes to riding in groups, you have to check both your horse’s confidence and your own.

- Play “Switch the Leader” games: First stop or slow down and allow the other horse to take the lead, giving a wide berth as they pass. Soon you’ll be doing it at the trot and even the canter and able to stay quite close.
- Ride in pairs, threes or fours: – in a straight line abreast and then in different configurations such as an arrow-head, behind each other in a line, etc. Make sure you keep your horse on a predetermined track and don’t drift off course. Imagine you are one of the Blue Angels Air Force demonstration team - the others are depending on you to not swerve around in the air! That’s why these incredible pilots can fly with wing tips so close together. You need to be a good pilot for your horse and your friends when riding in groups.
- Experiment with speed on a circle: Start by trotting, trotting faster then slower, faster and slower, then transitions to walk and trot... all as a group, as one. When this feels easy, and if you are all ready for it, do the same in canter – faster and slower, faster and slower. Vary the sizes of your circles – start smaller, get larger and smaller again, approach and retreat style.
- Horses get really upset when you hold them back, and this can spell disaster. Instead of holding them back,

simply make your circles spiral in smaller, and keep riding forward until your horse doesn’t feel the need to run any more. This occurs because the adrenaline gets used up in a positive way. Of course you would bend your horse to a stop with one rein if you got into trouble, doing less sooner. And remember that this is about rehearsal. It’s going to be hard to bend to a stop in a group in a real situation, which is why you want to rehearse this until you are confident that your horse is going to keep it together under different conditions.

- All for one and one for all: It’s really important to all be there for each other during your preparations. Be conscious of how your actions affect others and don’t be afraid to speak up when you need everyone to wait or slow down. Just make sure you ask sooner rather than later, at the first signs of difficulty. And do it calmly not in an emotional panic!
- Recently seven of us were riding at a nearby hunt club, not in the hunt but expanding our skills and exposing our horses to new environments. We felt confident to go for a bit of a gallop together, just a hand gallop, like a fast canter with us standing up a little in our stirrups. I told everyone that if their horse started to get excited to yell out “circle!” and the leaders would turn to the right and stay circling until their horse was calm again. We didn’t have to do it, which was great... but it’s a wonderful strategy to keep in mind and rehearse for.

4. Repetition and Testing

When it comes to preparation, repetition is a very important key. You need to do your simulations as a positive pattern, which means for seven sessions. In hearing that, you’ll probably realize just how under-prepared so many riders and horses are for their activities! What does Pat say? “Prior and proper preparation prevents poor performance.” Now, it doesn’t mean that you’re going to have to do it every time for every new situation, but when you are training in the beginning, you will need to take it seriously and establish the foundation for the future. Over-prepare rather than under-prepare. After that your leadership and your horse’s trust in you should already be established and now it just needs to keep strengthening with just a little ‘top up’ here and there. But any time you’re going into a very new and different and potentially quite challenging experience for your horse, think ahead. Be savvy, stay safe, be really prepared.

What if things go wrong at the event or activity? Bend to

a stop and get off as soon as it starts to feel bad and you have that “Uh-oh” thought. The idea is to feel when things are just starting to go wrong, like your horse getting tense and distracted, and you feel a little tight. Act right then. Of course you will always make sure you are well warmed up on the ground so your horse is calm, connected and responsive before you mount up.

What else do you have to prepare for?

It's important to know what kind of situation you are preparing for. In this way you can tailor the exercises to more accurately simulate and prepare for them:

- Trail rides
- Arena groups
(warm-up arenas, group lessons, clinics)
- Competitions
- Hunting
- Parades

In some of these situations, there will be additional elements such as horses coming too close, cars, wagons, hounds, displays, music, crowds, floats, stressed people, shouting, hurrying, etc. And while not all of us can gather a couple of thousand people or a live band at a moment's notice, take heart because this is about being able to keep your horse's attention and connection more than anything else. In simulations, you can just have one person make

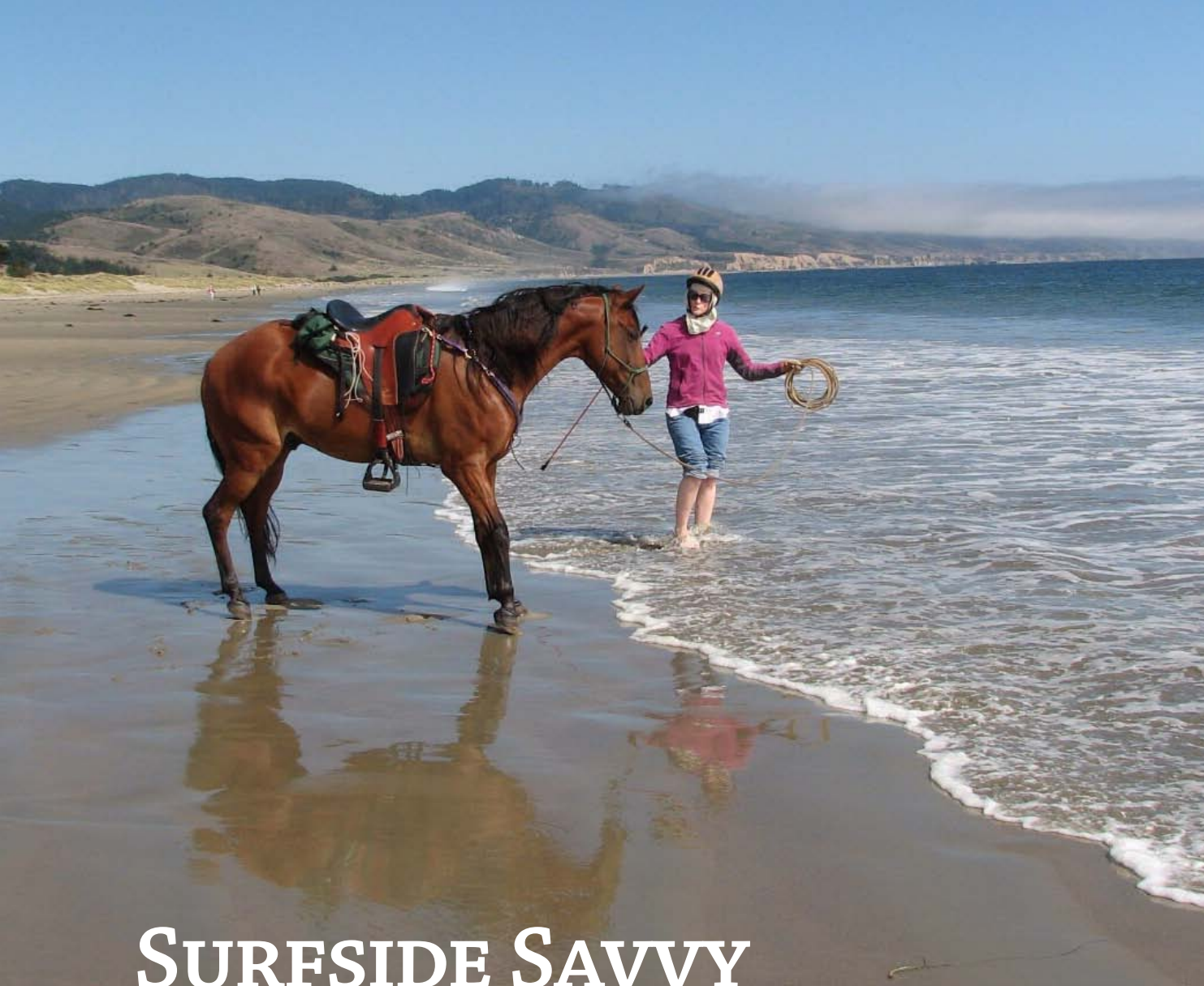
a commotion and challenge yourself to keep your own focus and calmly, but insistently, keep your horse on a task – getting him to put his feet on a pedestal is a good one to start with. After that, think of the gait you'll be using when in that situation and over-prepare. If it's going to be the walk, get to where you can do it at the trot, and so on... and first on the ground.

How to make a commotion? Having someone shaking a flag (Carrot Stick with plastic bag on the end), or shaking and dragging a tarp, banging on a barrel, fence, roof, jumping up and down, etc. will all work really well. Start softly and build from there, softening the commotion before the horse gets upset and then escalating again (approach and retreat). Have your helper stay in one place at first, allowing you to change the proximity when ready. Later on, you can deal with more movement and unpredictability.

As you know, we so often say “It's not about the _____ (fill in the blank).” It really is all about the relationship of trust and connection. When a horse really trusts you, he will learn to not worry unless you do... and of course you won't worry because you are emotionally fit! Be or become the leader your horse needs – calm, confident, prepared. 🐾



PHOTO BY COCO



SURFSIDE SAVVY

Helping Horses with the (Com)motion of the Ocean

by David Lichman and Meredith Reinhart

When thinking about horses on the beach, some of us imagine a group of calm horses and riders walking along the shore; others, the ecstatic gallop on the beach scene from *The Black Stallion*. We want to go to the beach with our horses and have a wonderful time. When we think back to our happy childhood days at the shore, it makes us feel that the only way to make those days better would be to share them with our horses. Having a dreamy day at the beach with a horse is a completely achievable dream. But it is a big dream, one which requires prior and proper preparation.

We need to look at the beach from our horse's point of view. Horses are very perceptive to changes, and the seashore embodies constant change—changes that most horses (other than Chincoteague ponies) have no experience with. Nature provides surf, high and low tides, sun glinting off water, wet and dry sand, wet and dry seaweed

in various configurations, wind (which can blow dry seaweed down the beach like mini-tumbleweeds) and the occasional dead marine mammal. Fellow humans come to have their fun at the beach and bring challenges separate from those of nature. Beachgoers play Frisbee and soccer, walk off-leash dogs of all sizes, dispositions and manners, light bonfires, surf, swim, fly kites, fish from shore, set up substantial umbrellas and flap sand off towels. These happy folks most likely have no horse sense. They don't know how much space to give a nervous horse or even how to tell if a horse is nervous. Also many of them will be oblivious to instructions, no matter how clear. However, horses have a magnetic draw for people who will come up, pet, visit and talk. There is enough going on at the beach to challenge even an experienced, bold, left-brain trail horse and his equally bold and confident human.

Having taken an inventory of what a day at the beach requires, we're in a better position to prepare. Minimally, the human should have passed Level 2 and have solid Level 3 skills on the ground. We need to be sure to use approach and retreat, put the relationship first, and have superior rope skills. The human must be able to handle the rope skillfully enough so as not to tangle the horse's feet. The 22-foot Line soaks up water and gets heavy. Of course, the 12-foot also soaks up water, but the shorter length makes it less of an issue. The 45-foot Line doesn't absorb water and is, therefore, the best choice. But handling that length and type of line requires a much higher skill level. It would be devastating for a horse to drown because he was ensnared by a badly handled line.

Being able to control Zone 1 from behind the drive line all the way back to Zone 5 is essential. Practice moving the front end of the horse to the left and the right as you face him. Increase the distance he moves until he can turn completely sideways to you and beyond that to where he is facing directly away from you. This will come in handy when your horse is in the water advancing beyond where you are, and you need to keep him from turning back on you.

Visit the beach area without your horse first. Notice where people congregate and get the lay of the land. A wide, open beach with relatively gentle surf is going to be approachable for the horse and give the human more room to maneuver. Look for trail possibilities that take a longer path to the beach as this lets the horse approach gradually, arriving at the sand warmed up and with enough exercise under her girth so she won't be spooky just from high energy.

Having a dreamy day at the beach with a horse is a completely achievable dream.

The optimal first time at the beach will be one when the wave action is relatively calm and the tide is going out. Tide charts will show up on your iPhone – be sure to check them. Even better than just one day is to have several days with consecutive visits. This isn't just for the horse's benefit. When the human knows that she'll be back tomorrow, it is easier to be pleased with small successes and put the horse's needs first.

A beach-loving buddy and her experienced horse are worth their weight in gold. But make sure the horse is really calm and brave at the beach. Friends may tell you that everything is okay because they didn't get bucked off and life-flighted out, but your horse knows whether or not it's true confidence. A friend with you on foot, as another set of hands and pair of eyes, can come in very handy. Plus, it's great to have someone taking photos of this excellent day.

A beach-loving buddy and her experienced horse are worth their weight in gold.

With all this planning complete and the day at hand, the most important principle to remember is that the goal of the outing is to put the relationship first and build the horse's confidence and curiosity. All other goals have to be secondary. Practically, this means that as the beach gets closer, the horse will probably slow down, stop and worry. Your job is to stop at or, even better, before the first sign of trouble appears and let the horse reflect. Backing up a bit can also be helpful as it reduces pressure. Depending on Horsenality™, this stop can be very brief, or the horse may need more time. I find looking at my watch helps. It may





seem that we've ground permanently to a halt when in reality it has only been three minutes. This can be an excellent time to get off and play with your horse on the ground. Even with a buddy horse in front, the inexperienced horse will most likely stop. Let her. Most of the time, the horse will want to move forward sooner than you think. If not, consider having a snack and graze break.

Once the horse arrives on the sand, chances are he will want to roll. This is a good sign because a horse has to feel confident to do so. Plan for this by dismounting and removing the saddle. If the horse drops to his knees while you're still mounted, kick your feet out of the stirrups so you don't get caught underneath.

A successful first beach outing could be spent well up on the dry sand near the dunes hanging out, with no need to go any closer to the water. If the horse has worked through a lot of emotional angst to a state of calm curiosity, this could be the best stopping place. If you have arranged for multiple days at the beach, it is easier to be satisfied with stopping at this point on the first day.

When you are ready to head to the waves, approach on foot with your horse On Line. There are two essential rules the human has to understand. First, prepare to get wet. If, while sending the horse towards the water, the human jumps back from the approaching waves to stay dry, it

will scare the horse rather than inspire confidence. Wear clothes that can get wet. If you are in a cold area, either wear a wet suit or forgo shivering, flinching, and complaining. Second, don't let the horse get between you and the waves. For that matter, do not let her get between anyone and the waves! Horses are likely to leap, jump, and bolt sideways away from an approaching wave. If that means knocking down their humans or passers by, they will do it in a moment. So until the horse is a very beach-confident horse, don't risk yourself and don't ever risk someone else. Even the most doltish, drunk, foolish beach goer deserves to get home in one piece.

Chances are that your horse will want to stop and look several times on the way to the water. Rather than be direct line in approach, you can send your horse in an arc from one side to the other in an "S" pattern as you walk backwards toward the water. Another option is to ask your horse to go sideways paralleling the water. Don't forget to respect thresholds by thinking, "Nose, neck, and maybe the feet." Or even better: "Nose, neck... maybe next week!" Don't push it.

Upon arriving at the water's edge, horses tend to stop. When the waves actually touch their hooves and legs, horses tend to jump at least a little bit. The sensation of having the sand sucked out from under their hooves is something they have to get used to. Remember to keep the horse either to the side or behind you to avoid getting knocked down. Horses will also stagger a bit. The motion of the waves upsets their sense of balance. Don't worry; they get over it. After these initial moments, horses also like to test out the salty water. It is okay for them to drink some. Just disrupt the drinking if it turns into wholesale gulping.

Once these initial stages are past, it's time to play some more. Before a horse is ready to be ridden into the waves,



he needs to be able to enter and leave the water calmly when asked. One really good test to evaluate calmness is to see if the horse is comfortable facing away from the water. Test this first where the waves don't touch the horse. Ultimately the horse should be able to stand calmly facing away from the water while the waves come in and out around his legs. At that point, it's reasonable to think about riding in. Of course, this is also another good spot to stop, head up to the dry sand and see if another roll is in order. Riding could easily wait for the next beach day.

A successful first beach outing could be spent well up on the dry sand near the dunes.

If you decide to wait until the next beach day to ride, check in briefly to see if everything you did earlier is still working. Doing so will assess if the horse really learned what you thought she learned. If the horse is in a calm and curious state of mind when On Line in the water, it is time to get on.

On the first ride in, watch the horizon (your sense of balance may become upset by the swirling waters), put

your hands on the withers, push yourself deeply on to your balance point and exhale. If the horse staggers or leaps, you don't want to become unseated, as this will undermine your horse's confidence. Besides the water might be cold. Plan to enter and leave the waves a number of times. Try to make controlled exits at the moment of your choosing—when the horse is more settled. But on the other hand, don't try to force him to stay in when he needs to leave.

Now that you are enjoying the surfside with savvy, there is a bit more to consider. On the way back, things will look different, including the glare and reflections off the surface of the water. Kites that were peacefully aloft may be diving, or surfers may have appeared. Be aware of other groups of horses, especially long rental strings. For many of those folks it may be their first time on a horse, and they don't need any extra challenges from you. Also be aware that deep sand can be treacherous on tendons that have not been conditioned for it. Stay on the firmer, wetter sand where possible. And remember, when trouble surfaces, hopping off is always a good option – live to ride another day!

As every beach day draws to a close, your goal is to have your horse leave the beach with the reluctance of a child who has spent a lovely day at the shore. Dust off the sand. Saddle up. Promise your fine steed that you will be coming back soon. 🐾



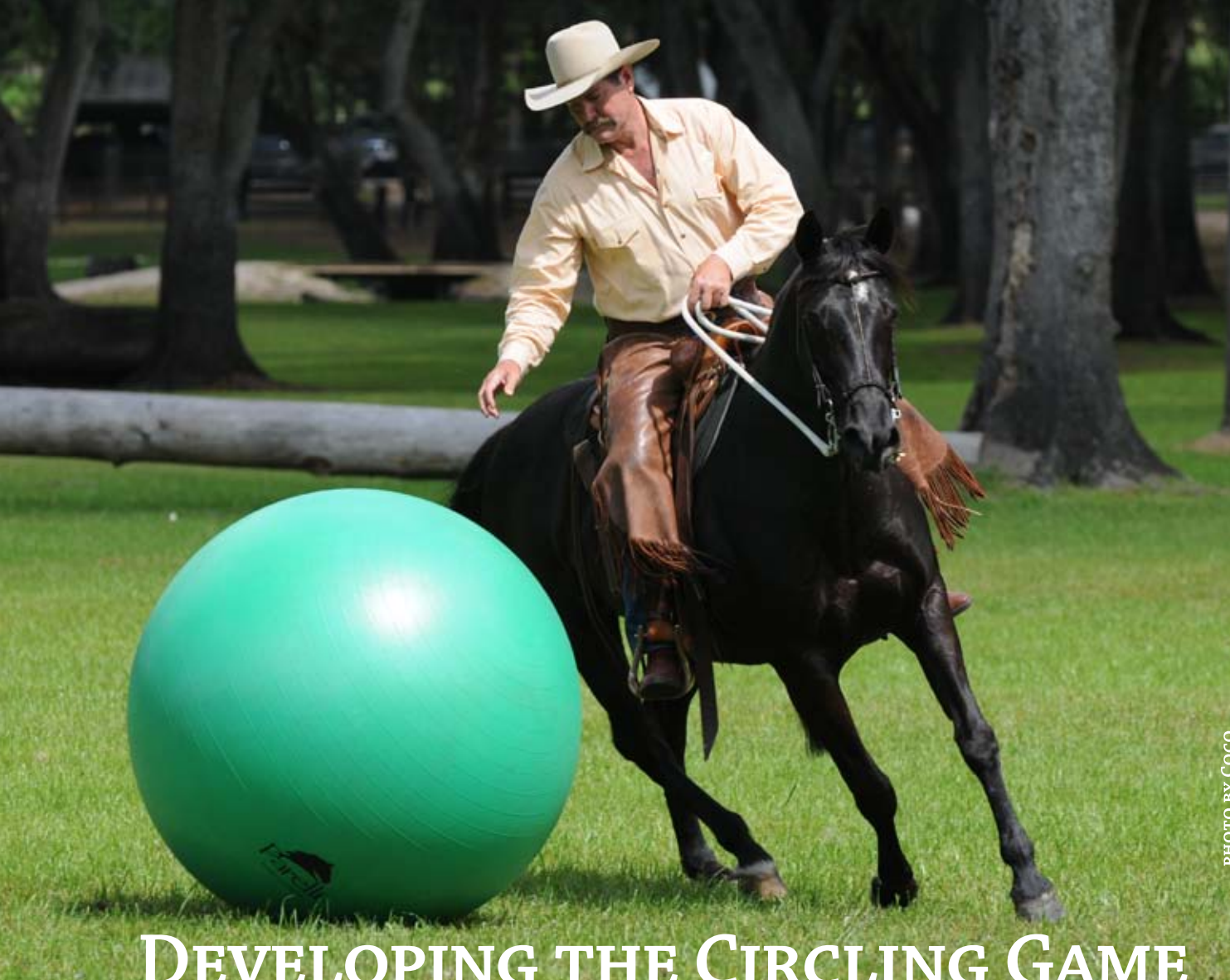


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DEVELOPING THE CIRCLING GAME

Preparing to Audition for Level 4

by Kristi Smith, 4-Star Senior Instructor

The Circling Game can be one of the most valuable conversations that you have with your horse. It can also be one of the most detrimental if you are not progressive and incorporating the three ingredients of rhythm, relaxation and contact. In Level 1, Pat teaches us to only ask for four to six laps on the 12-foot Line in our Circling Game as a means to help us not get into a lunging or micromanaging mindset. But did you know that Pat's expectation for Level 4 is that you could ask your horse for forty laps on the end of the 45-foot Line with very few, if any, corrections? We set this as a goal for two main reasons. One is that, as we build towards our goal of forty laps with the human in neutral (not turning with our horse), we are each developing our mutual responsibilities. It is the horse's responsibility to act like a partner, maintain gait, maintain direction, and watch where he is putting his feet.

It is our responsibility to act like a partner, develop our independent seat/feet (finding neutral), learn to think like a horse, and to utilize the natural power of focus.

The first task is to get your horse in the mood for some Circling Game, and each Horsenality has their own needs for that.

The second benefit of forty rhythmical, relaxed and connected laps is purity of gait for the horse. To become more skilled in his movement, a horse needs the opportunity to experience some continuity. He needs to be in motion

long enough to learn how to become more natural and efficient in his movement. The tricky part is to help him become more athletic without losing the horse's mental involvement in the conversation. How do we get our horses to enjoy the Circling Game?

The answer lies in our study of Horsenalties™. The first task is to get your horse in the mood for some Circling Game, and each Horsenality has their own needs for that. Left-Brain Extroverts find the constancy of the circles uninspiring. So for them, it is best to include lots of obstacles and transitions. Keep it playful and fun and don't be too quick to insist on obedience. Allow them to express themselves and then bring their idea around to yours. Get them into a learning frame of mind by satiating their need for play. Left-Brain Extroverts are pretty good at maintaining gait, but find maintaining direction difficult because that requires obedience. Support his ideas long enough and he will eventually be more open to your ideas. Be sure to stick to the conversation until he opens up to your suggestions, otherwise he will victimize you. Give him lots of praise and laugh a lot. Be sure to not bore him with endless repetition. Build up to forty laps very gradually (over weeks or even months). Don't get into a punishment frame of mind. This horse will get aggressive if he feels as though his ideas have not been heard. He thinks what he is doing

is fun! When you get frustrated, then you are not passing his rules for who is qualified to make the decisions. Be sure to ask a different question as soon as you get an obedient answer to your request. If he senses that you are "working" him, he will return to a resistant frame of mind.

The Circling Game can be one of the most valuable conversations that you have with your horse.

Right-Brain Extroverts will find maintaining gait and direction easy because they do not have to think to do that. However, maintaining a mental contact and keeping their body in the same shape as the circle (latitudinally flexed) will be challenging for them. To get them in the mood for Circling Game with rhythm, relaxation, and contact, you have to get them thinking. You can do that by interrupting their pattern and by putting obstacles in their way. You need to think as quick as he does to keep him engaged. Don't allow for there to be enough mental space for him to worry about the boogie monsters waiting for him in the shadows. Respect his thresholds and relax when he relaxes. Be consistent with your requests until he builds his confidence and ability to focus. Be sure to not allow him to stay in a right-brain frame of mind any longer than it takes you to snap him out of it and then be ready to redirect his focus on something useful. It is our goal to get him to ask you what to do instead of mother nature. The longer he talks to mother nature, the stronger his belief will be that she knows better what to do than you do. You cannot teach him anything until you have him focused. Whirling around in mindless circles are not going to benefit him. Keep learning sessions short and focused on relaxation.

Right-Brain Introverts will find the positive latitudinal flexion difficult. You can often get lots of laps because of the Right-Brain Introvert's need to be obedient. However, it will not be with confidence and with flexibility in their Zone 3. If they are tight in their body, then they are tight in their mind. You have to wait with these horses and only ask them to do as much as they can offer with trust. Most Right-Brain Introverts are very concerned with getting in trouble and will end up offering to do more than what you asked. Be sure that you are evaluating the quality of their responses and not just that they do the task you



asked for, but they will be tight while they are doing it. Insist on confidence and don't push them when they get their feet stuck. Focus on confidence and this horse will go to the end of the earth for you. It is easy for this horse to shut down and become unexpressive if we miss their subtle signs of fear. You can easily push this horse into a fearful reaction with Phase 1 if you are not waiting for him to respond to you with confidence. Build up your laps very gradually. Be sure to keep in mind that your horse is NEVER wrong. Constant reassurance is critical with this Horsenality. Be very subtle with your communication. This horse is easily offended and will respond with brace in his body and mind. Be consistent until he is calm. Once he trusts that you will not push him when he is unsure, your forty laps with quality will come easily.

The motivation and enthusiasm needed to maintain forty laps will be difficult for those of you with Left-Brain Introverts. Reverse psychology and lateral thinking will be essential to your success with this horse. Leave him with the thought "Oh, that is all you wanted? That was easy!" Then, the next session he will offer more. Always end a session on enthusiasm. Just when it starts to feel good, move on! You can get his life up by offering lots of variety and/ or doing something unexpected. Keep your sessions light and fun. It is very important for you to have in mind why it is you are playing with your horse On Line. There are really only three reasons we do that. One is in preparation for something, like going for a ride or for a visit from the vet or farrier. Another reason for us to play On Line is to teach our horse something new (like adding laps to our Circling Game). And, finally we play On Line so that we can learn something new. As soon as you achieve one of those outcomes, *get on with it* or be done.

For Level 4 On Line Auditions, Pat would like to see your horse looking calm, trusting, obedient and responsive. Your communication needs to be refined, and there should be very little need for you to use your Carrot Stick. The horse needs to be flexed both latitudinally and longitudinally for at least 90% of the video. This is a good sign that your horse has a positive mental attitude about your leadership and this conversation. This kind of flexion will also help him to be more athletic and prepare him for some kind of sport or specialization. He needs to be able to find the end of the rope and then give you the slack back by putting the belly of the rope on the ground. We would love to see you out in an open field with your horse "hunting out" the next obstacle. Get your horse in a

learning frame of mind before you start trying to film your audition. Then show us what you can do and not what you are working on.

I have to admit that the love and joy did leave my horsemanship journey during my pursuit of levels advancement. I am just lucky that I have a horse that has a strong enough constitution to have survived the ordeal unscathed, and that once I learned to be better, I could do better. I have heard that many people end up selling their levels horse, that often by the time they achieve their goals, they no longer enjoy spending time with that horse and vice versa. This only happens when you lose sight of why you started this journey in the first place. I am telling you this in hopes that it will help you avoid such a terrible detour. I know that the folks who get involved in Parelli Natural Horsemanship are the passionate kind and that most people jump in wholeheartedly. That is what makes this organization so great. We have heart. Just don't forget why you are here. You are here because you LOVE horses. 🐾



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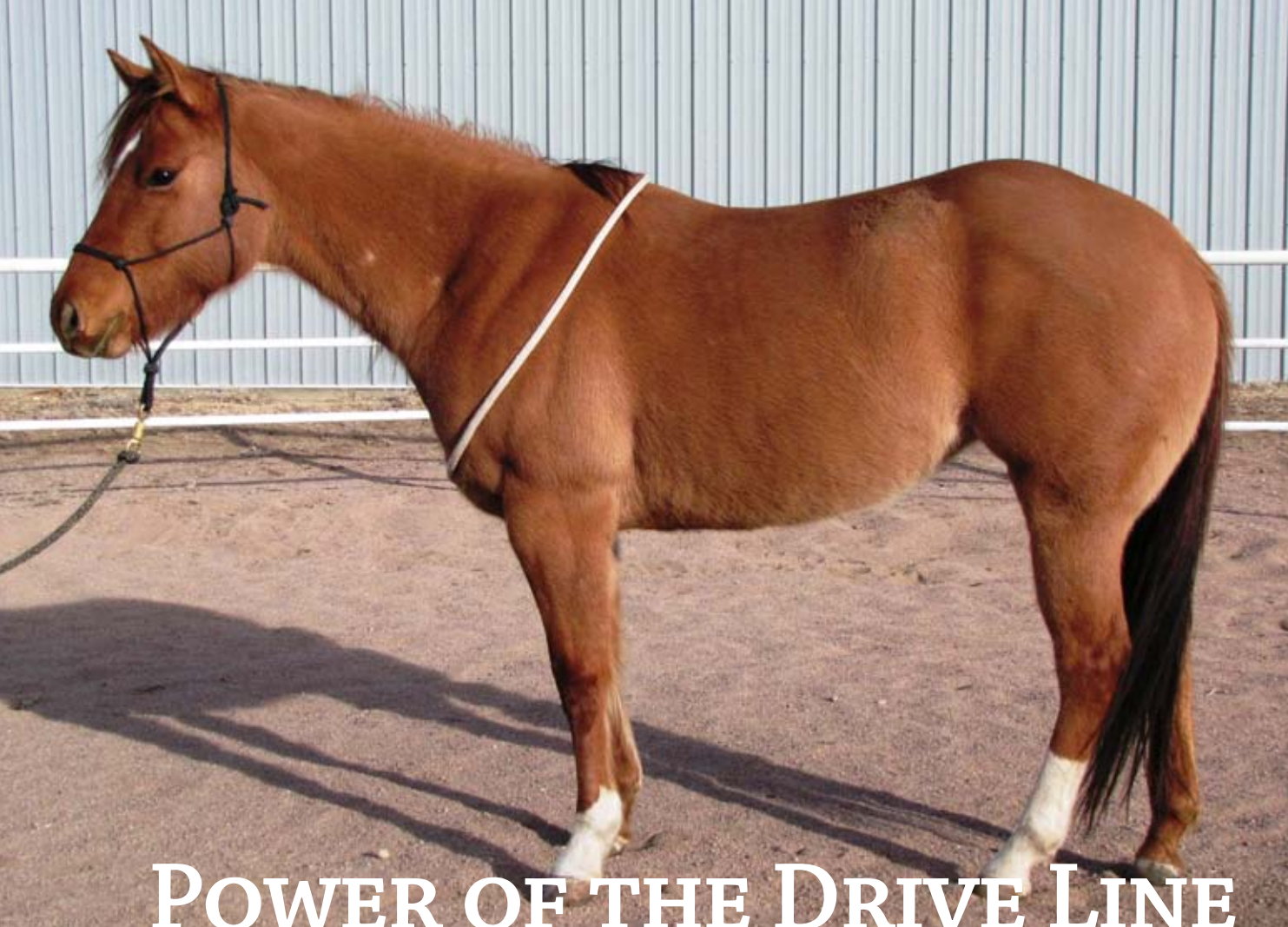
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POWER OF THE DRIVE LINE

Go Hand and Whoa Hand

by Teri Sprague

The blue roan's only previous contact with humans was being run through a chute for vaccinations. If I stepped out of the absolute center of the round pen, she would – in prey animal fashion – double back against the fence. After some time she stopped, unable to look at me, but with an ear plastered on me. If I shifted my weight to my right foot (toward her tail) she went forward. If I shifted my weight to my left foot (toward her head), she stopped and backed a step!

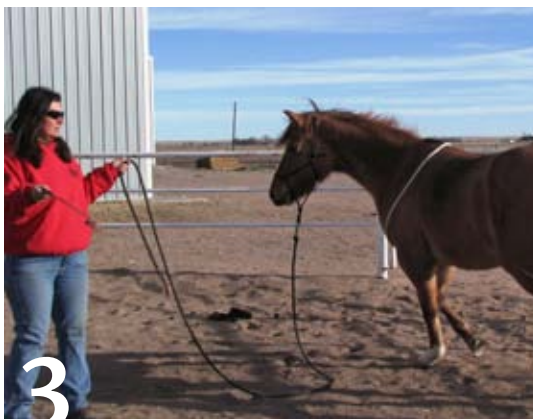
From the point of the withers to the point of the shoulder is an invisible but powerful line called the Drive Line. The more you are in front of it, the more the horse will tend to back up – or contrary-wise, will not go forward – and will move the forequarters away (unless you are WAY in front of it). The more you are behind this line, the more the horse will tend to go forward – or contrary-wise, will not back up – and will move the hindquarters (unless you are WAY behind it). Armed with this principle, you can fix many impulsion and turning issues simply by adjusting your position – if on the ground – or the location of where you are applying pressure (on the ground or riding).

For example, if you are trying to porcupine the hindquarter and it is not working (See photo 1), move your body to a position more perpendicular to the hindquarter (See photo 2). If you are trying to move the hindquarter from the horse's back and it is not working, try moving your leg further back...or touch a spot further back with the Carrot Stick.

Interestingly, the effective position is not necessarily absolute. It is often just relative to the Drive Line. For instance, if you are trying to drive the forequarter and the horse is trying to escape backwards, try adjusting your position further back...you may only need to shift your position a few inches, not actually get behind the Drive Line.

The concept of the "Go Hand/Whoa Hand" is simply an extension of the Drive Line Principle. Apply pressure in back of the horse (behind the Drive Line – See Photo 3) to speed him up and apply pressure in front of the horse (in front of the Drive Line – See Photo 4) to slow him down.

Get good at recognizing Drive Line issues and how to solve them, and you will be surprised at how simple it is to fix both turning and impulsion challenges! 🐾



CAN YOU?

Experiment with the Drive Line – How Good Can it Get?

1. **GO**—Use the 12-foot Line to lead and support with the stick.
2. **WHOA**—Use the 12-foot Line jiggling up and down to interfere with forward motion and/or back up.
3. **GO**—Use the 22-foot Line to lead and support with the tail of the rope if necessary.
4. **WHOA**—Use the stick in front of Zone 1 to suggest a downward transition; support with the line jiggling.
5. **GO**—Use your body turning with the motion of the horse to suggest an upward transition; support with a lead on the line or the stick behind. (Hint: Start the turn when the horse is behind you.)
6. **WHOA**—Use your body turning against the horse's motion to suggest a downward transition; support with a stick or jiggling the line. (Hint: Start the turn when the horse is behind you.)
7. **GO**—Inhale for an upward transition; support by turning with the horse if necessary.
8. **WHOA**—Exhale for a downward transition; support with a turn against the horse's motion.

Have fun and let me know how it goes for you!

Special thanks to Molly Gasperich and her Left-Brain/Right-Brain Introvert partner, Try.

Teri Sprague is a Licensed 4-Star Senior Instructor and has been teaching Parelli since 1995. She is available for Level 1-4 Clinics around the nation. She also gives private and group lessons at her home facility near Ft. Collins, CO. She specializes in building confidence in riders and horses using imaginative applications of the empowering psychology, principles and techniques of Parelli Natural Horsemanship. Contact her at ts4pnh@yahoo.com or www.terisprague.com.



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 Rosie Robilliard, Australia
 Marianne Robinson, Australia
 Elizabeth Rose, UK
 Erin Rose, Canada
 Katja Schumann, Denmark
 Lavinia Scrymgeour, UK
 Sherrill Shotigian, USA
 Pamela Skinner, USA
 Anna Smart, Australia
 Kay Smith, Australia
 Jennifer Span, Austria
 Debby Spillman, USA





Nicola Steiner, Germany
Robbie Stevenson, Canada
Kristine Strecker, USA
Philomena Taylor, Australia
Janet Thompson, Canada
Rhonda Turner, USA
Nicky van der Sluis, Netherlands
Micheline Voets, USA
Maggie Wagstaff, UK
Lilian Weiss, Sweden
Yvonne Wheaton, USA
Dalene Whiley, Australia
Barbara Wilkins, USA
Ella Worthington, USA
Imogen Wright, UK
Jo Wright, UK
Julie Zwettler, USA

Level 2 Graduates

(On Line + FreeStyle)

Nicola Ackland, UK
Silvia Aigner, France
Lanie Allen, USA
Victoria Allen, USA
Alessio Amaru, Italy
Marina Andersen, Australia
Aroldo Aroldi, Italy
Camilla Asdam, Norway
Kate Avery, Australia
Mark Avery, Australia
Faye Bader, USA
Carrie Baker, Australia
Vickie Baker, USA
Loretta Balzamo, Canada
Mary Barczak, USA
Alice Barr, USA
Fran Barriball, UK
Diane Barrow, USA
Susan Barry, USA
Deborah Barton, USA
Denise Basson, South Africa
Kris Batchelor, USA
Chloe Beaumont, UK
Petra Becker, Germany
Karen Bennett, UK
Cathy Beringer, USA
Katie Birchenough, USA
Pamela Blevins, USA

Christine Boenninger-Mueller, Germany
Irene Boero, Italy
Samantha Bolam, UK
Sharon Lee Bowker, Australia
Mona Bretzler, Germany
Daniela Bungartz, Germany
Eidin Burns, Ireland
Charles Chick, USA
Lorraine Chick, USA
Tessa Chislett, UK
Monica Christiansen, Norway
Verena Christmann, Spain
Felicity Clarke, UK
Adra Cooper, USA
Robin Cotter, USA
Pauline Cowey, Australia
Vicci Crowley-Clough, Australia
Greg Cumberford, USA
Tamera Cunningham, USA
Gemma Dakin, UK
Deborah Darling, USA
Terry Davenport, USA
Angela Dawson, UK
Nancy De Sisto, USA
Renee Dean, USA
Patricia Debowsky, USA
Q Dehart, USA
Sandy Demazet, France
Anne-Catherine Dens, Belgium
Laura Dens, Belgium
Marie Andree Desmeules, Canada
Laura Dixon, UK
Lesley Donaldson, UK
Silvia Donzelli, Italy
Candace Ducharme, USA
Joy Duellman, USA
Jennifer Emery, USA
Kate Emmerson, UK
Carmela Erickson, Canada
Rosa Escapa Garrachon, Spain
Barbara Evans, USA
Zachary Ewell, USA
Lisa Fitter, UK
Peggy Florian, USA
Beverley Foreman, UK
Lisa Fracchetti, Italy
Sadie Francis, UK
Marthe Francois, France

Pernilla Franzen, Sweden
Ann Fraser, UK
Megan Gagnon, Canada
Ingrid Gahr, Germany
Kay Goddard, New Zealand
Janet Grogan, USA
Christian Guastamacchia, Italy
Marion Guhs, Germany
Sharon Hackney, UK
Jacqui Hall, UK
Donna Hanlon, UK
Charon Harmston, UK
Cynthia Hartzell, USA
Sonja Haught, USA
Fleur Heath, Switzerland
Alison Helsby, Australia
Angela Hendrix, Netherlands
Nicole Hengl, Austria
Guifre Higuera Homola, Austria
Mark Hladky, USA
Carole Hofmann, USA
Agneta Hoglund, Sweden
Beth Holt McCurdy, USA
Liz Hopley, Canada
Lois Huckins, USA
Valerie Humphrey, UK
Debbie Hurren, UK
Carna Jackson, USA
Teresa Jackson, USA
Liz James, UK
Amelia Johnston, Australia
Denise Jones, UK
Jessica Jones, USA
Paisley Jones, UK
Maria-Christina Keiling, Germany
Barbara Ketchum, USA
Mackenzie Kincaid, USA
Jodie Koch, UK
Stefanie Koehler, Germany
Deborah Kolody, USA
Patrycja Krzanowska, Poland
Fiona Kuon, Germany
Elizabeth Lampman, USA
Sue Lanthier, Canada
Emily Larramore, USA
Gillian Lee, UK
Angela Lie-Hap-Po, Netherlands
Anita Lilja, Sweden
Judith Longman, UK

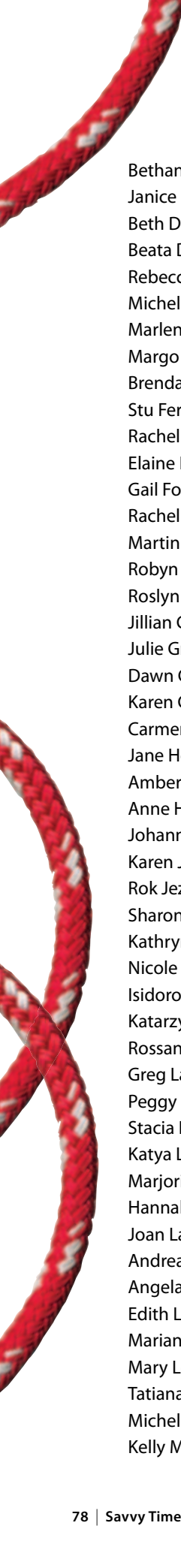
Vicki Lovelace, USA
Melanie Lovett, Australia
Hanna Lundquist, Sweden
Fiona Lyall, UK
Alan Maher, UK
Debbie Maher, UK
Emil Rum Malmros, Denmark
Peggy Malone, USA
Susan Martin, USA
Anne-Maree McComb, Australia
Linda McCullough, Australia
Alex McElwain, USA
Sue McGlone, Australia
Penny McLain, USA
Cindy Miller, USA
Sandy Miller, USA
Siegfried Mittermair, Italy
Lesley Moore, Italy
Sarah Moore, USA
T.C. Moore, USA
Kathy Mueller, USA
Martina Mueller, Switzerland
Michelle Murillo, USA
Barbara Murray, UK
Coltyn Nelson, USA
Misty Nichols, USA
Mathilda Nilsson, Sweden
Annika Noreus, USA
Monica Norlen, Sweden
Colleen Nye, USA
Jill Olson, USA
Liz Oseland, USA
Tammi Palmer, USA
Kristie Papi, USA
Cynthia Paquette, Canada
Mary-Ann Parker, Canada
Suzanne Parr, USA
Christina Paterson-Jones, USA
Claire Peach, UK
Natalie Peterman, USA
Sue Phillips, Australia
Robert Pickering, USA
Josette Planer, UK
Marion Princic, Sweden
Joyce Purslow, UK
Loretta Quinn, Australia
Ann Randall, UK
Stephanie Reiswig, USA
Ingela Rinde, Sweden

Met Riseley, Australia
Marianne Robinson, Australia
Emma Rollins, UK
Elizabeth Rose, UK
Ronja Ruebelmann, Germany
Chelsey Russell, South Africa
Claudio Saba, Italy
Caroline Samson, USA
Susan Schafer, USA
Karin Schmid, Switzerland
Tracey Schwartz, USA
Dave Sears, UK
Becky Sibley, UK
Susan Sibley, Canada
Josie Sifft, USA
Angelina Skripic, Italy
Erica Sloma, USA
Anna Smart, Australia
Eva Snelson, Australia
Fulvia Sommovigo, Italy
Kurt Somweber, France
Jennifer Span, Austria
Sarah Spiller, USA
Kathryn Stagoll, Australia
Madison Stahle, USA
Emelie Steen, Sweden
Nicola Steiner, Germany
Nicole Steiner, Austria
Alex Strobel, UK
Kezia Sullivan, UK
Jane Sweeney, USA
Stefano Tasca, Italy
Philomena Taylor, Australia
Sue Tellier, UK
Katharina Theisinger, Germany
Ronnie Thornton, USA
Jane Travis, UK
Judith Tremblay, Canada
Bruce Trinca, USA
Joanne Tubb, Australia
Fausto Uriarte Gonzalez, Spain
Marjan Urkens, Belgium
Nicky van der Sluis, Netherlands
Julie Van Laethem, Belgium
Candis Veach, USA
Jo Vincent, UK
Ricky Vincent, USA
Jacqueline Visconti, Canada
Micheline Voets, USA

Hanneke Vosse, Netherlands
Maggie Wagstaff, UK
Justine Ward, UK
Victoria Watson, UK
Juliette Watt, USA
Angela Welsh, Ireland
Carrie Whalen, USA
Dalene Whiley, Australia
Ann-Kristin Wiklund, Sweden
Daniel Wingate, USA
Anthony Yanketis, USA
Gina Yarrish, USA
Brandy Young, UK
Chiara Zoni, Italy
Julie Zwettler, USA

Level 2 On Line Graduates

Julie Adams, Canada
Sonya Adams, USA
Brandie Allan, Australia
Fay Allan-Banting, UK
Chevi Ames, USA
Sarah Astill, Australia
Ashley Atkins, Canada
Lori Balderston, Canada
Jodi Bament, UK
Trudi Bament, UK
Geraldine Barker, UK
Gail Bateman, UK
Jessica Baxter, UK
Bailey Benner, USA
Andrea Bergstrom, USA
Kate Blake, UK
Tania Boehmer, Germany
Kathy Bolamperti, USA
Alexandra Bowden, USA
Judith Bray, USA
Sabrina Brem, USA
Henrik Bruhn, Denmark
Gillian Carr, UK
Lis Cassey, Australia
Rachel Castellano, USA
Barb Chaney, USA
Carol Colleen, USA
Pam Coolidge, USA
Mette Damm, Australia
Karen Davis-Weber, USA
Mathilde de Guillebon, France
Ambra De Simone, Italy



Bethany Delahunty, UK
Janice Dickson, UK
Beth Doolittle, USA
Beata Drewienkowska, Poland
Rebecca Duncan, USA
Michelle Eccleshall, New Zealand
Marlene Eddleston, UK
Margo Eidson, USA
Brenda Engelen, Belgium
Stu Ferguson, USA
Rachel Fessenden, USA
Elaine Fletcher, UK
Gail Ford, USA
Rachel Fox, USA
Martin Fursatz, Austria
Robyn Garcha, UK
Roslyn Goodman, Australia
Jillian Graney, UK
Julie Green, Canada
Dawn Gronow, UK
Karen Gwaltney, USA
Carmen Haager, Austria
Jane Hough, UK
Amber Howard, Australia
Anne Hultberg, Denmark
Johanna Ingram, UK
Karen Janssens, Belgium
Rok Jezernik, Slovenia
Sharon Kerr, Australia
Kathryn Kindred, UK
Nicole Kohut, Canada
Isidoros Koutikas, UK
Katarzyna Kuczynska, Poland
Rossana Lanari, Italy
Greg Lang, Canada
Peggy Lang, Canada
Stacia Langille, USA
Katya Lapins, USA
Marjorie Larson, Canada
Hannah Lathan, UK
Joan Layte, USA
Andrea Leist, USA
Angela Lent, USA
Edith Leroux, Canada
Marianne Lien, Norway
Mary Lord, USA
Tatiana Lorelli, USA
Michelle Lott, Australia
Kelly Marryatt, Canada

Giulia Maselli, Germany
Justine McGraw, UK
Susann Merz, Germany
Peggy Metcalf, USA
Allesha Mitchell, Canada
Lynda Murphy, UK
Madeline O'Doherty, Ireland
Mary Osterlund, USA
Agneta Osth, Sweden
Eileen Owens, UK
Tina Parr, USA
Lilija Paschek, Germany
Emily Pellow, Australia
Lance Peterman, USA
Jane Petrou, UK
Claudia Poelczner, Austria
Anne Porteous, USA
Mauro Rainoni, Italy
Pam Rains, USA
Rahel Rediger, Switzerland
Sarah Reese, USA
Karen Reimer, Canada
Sonja Reinhard, Switzerland
Barbara Reynolds, USA
Denise Ritter, Austria
Emily Rodgers, USA
Kathy Rogers, USA
Joanna Ross, UK
Jacqueline Rotberg, Switzerland
Julia Samson, Netherlands
Mary Schmidt, USA
Mindy Schroder, USA
Michelle Schwarting, USA
Marilyn Seeley, Canada
Deborah Sherriffs, Canada
Kyra Shober, USA
Pauline Skewes, Australia
Donna Smedley, UK
Dawn Smith, Australia
Meghan Smith, Australia
Ina Spies, Germany
Colleen Steedly, USA
Sandra Stubbs, USA
Maureen Summers, USA
Lesley Sutton, UK
Anne Svensson, Sweden
Marianne Taylor, USA
Laurie Tetreau, USA
Karen Thie, USA

Tahlie Thomson, Australia
Janet Turberville, UK
Rebecca Turberville, UK
Sharon Turkovich, Canada
Paola Ugolotti, Italy
Debbie Vandyk, Canada
Donna Varga, Canada
Debbie Walker, USA
Kristen Walker, USA
Morgan Walker, USA
Susan Ward, UK
Mark Weiler, USA
Emily Westwood, UK
Daniela Wieser, UK
Dionne Wild, Australia
Emma Williams, UK
Naomi Wilson, USA
Birgitte Winther, Denmark
Ruth Worley, UK
Kelly Yaremchuk, USA
Erica Yopp, USA
Caroline Young, UK

Level 2 FreeStyle Graduates

Matea Babcock, USA
Victoria Li Beaupre, Canada
Paolo Bonfanti, Italy
Gemma Caddy, UK
Gaetano Cerasuolo, Italy
Colin Christie, UK
Teri Claus, USA
Sue Gunvalson, USA
Heidi Olson-Hilder, USA
Monique Renooy, Netherlands
Tara Russell, UK
Cynthia Sherrill, USA
Carmel Stone, USA
Klaus Wilde, Germany

Level 1 On Line Graduates

Liliana Abrell, USA
Linda Anderson, USA
Saskia Anderson, Australia
Sierra Anderson, USA
Valerie Andrews, USA
Lori Araki, USA
Marilyn Bailey, UK
Myriam Bailly Poussin, Spain
Laura Balbiani, USA

Ben Barnes, Australia
 Nicole Berger, Sweden
 Angela Birchall, UK
 Amanda Birdsong, USA
 Hannah Bischoff, USA
 Aline Bittar, Switzerland
 Sarah Blue, Australia
 Liesanne Boeren, Belgium
 Jennifer Bolen, USA
 Oscar Bonfanti, Italy
 Stephanie Bradley, UK
 Maureen Brennan-Petitt, USA
 Melody Brooks, Canada
 Jenny Brumby, Australia
 Bambi Brusco, USA
 Emma Bugg, Australia
 Helen Byrne, UK
 Gemma Caddy, UK
 Tina Cameron, New Zealand
 Genevieve Carolan, Canada
 Rozee Carr-Bird, USA
 Lauren Carter, USA
 Carolyn Coffin, USA
 Jennifer Collins, USA
 Wendy Coons, USA
 John Cunning, UK
 Lieselot Czvek, Belgium
 Amanda Dealaman, USA
 Alexandra Denys, Belgium
 Julia Dobson, Australia
 Kathy Draffin, Canada
 Chris Draper, Australia
 Suzanne Ducharme, USA
 Steven Dyson, Australia
 Danielle Ellis-Snell, UK
 Tinatin Eppmann, Germany
 Darlene Evans, USA
 Anna Ferstl, Germany
 Alexandra Fleschurz, Austria
 Linda Forti, USA
 Noah Fox, USA
 Myrlene Frady, USA
 Jakob Frisk, Sweden
 Manuela Frohlich, Austria
 Marilena Gastaldi, Italy
 Karen Georgiou, UK
 Vanessa Gibbett, Australia
 Bettina Andrea Golob, Austria
 Therese Granlund, Sweden

Vicky Guilding, UK
 Julie Guiot, France
 Isabella Gunningham, USA
 Alicia Halhed, Canada
 Wendy Hamilton, USA
 Michael Hardman, UK
 Suzanne Harpur, UK
 Lindsay Harris, USA
 Emma Heidelmeier, USA
 Louisa Hell, Germany
 James Humphrey, USA
 Sandy Hushagen, Canada
 Mirjam Jaberg, Switzerland
 Melanie Jacobson, USA
 Rhiannon Jones, Australia
 Caron Kennedy-Stewart, UK
 Jennifer Krogel, USA
 Natalie Laack, USA
 Sabrina Lamontagne, Canada
 Jessica Lamperti, Germany
 Emma Laurijssen, Belgium
 David Leeman, USA
 Sue Lehto, Canada
 Heike Lilienthal, Germany
 Joanne Lowe, Australia
 Joann Luczynski, USA
 Carla Mackown, USA
 Sheila Marshall, Australia
 Brittany McCollom, USA
 Jeanine McCollom, USA
 Sondra kay Mckee, USA
 Myriama McNab, Australia
 Suzanne Metcalfe, UK
 Gerhard Michelak, Austria
 Anna Mills, UK
 Tony Mitchell, Australia
 Rebecca Moore, Canada
 Veronica Mount, UK
 Linda Noakes, UK
 Jessica Normand, USA
 Wendy Orwell, Australia
 Randy Osei Owusu, UK
 Emily Pelz, Germany
 Amy Pitts, USA
 Elena Pocaterra, Italy
 Elisabeth Pogatschnig, Austria
 Doris Ptolemy, Canada
 Michelle Rayyan, UK
 Monique Renooy, Netherlands

Leigh Risser, Canada
 Hannah Robeen, USA
 Gretchen Rohde, USA
 Caroline Rowell, USA
 Lisa Saiza, Canada
 Sierra Seko, USA
 Alex Smith, Australia
 Nancy Smith, USA
 Alexandra Soxberger, Austria
 Rebecca Starr, Australia
 Sabine Steiner, Austria
 Carmel Stone, USA
 Alison Swailes, UK
 Lin Thompson, UK
 Fern Tillman, USA
 Annelies Van Gompel, Belgium
 Don Van Rossen, Netherlands
 Kyle Van Splinter, USA
 Giulia Vassalle, Italy
 Ed Vopat, USA
 Linda Vopat, USA
 Matthew Vowles, UK
 Heather Webber, Canada
 Sally Willoughby, UK
 Sharon Worona, USA
 Melissa Yarrish, USA
 Hannah Ybanez, Australia

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LINDA PARELLI TO HEADLINE

2012 HORSE & SOUL TOUR

Linda Parelli is a student and a seeker who has pushed her own horsemanship in order to be a conduit of inspiration for others. For the 2012 Horse & Soul Tour, she will harvest two decades of passionate devotion to natural horsemanship and pour it out to fans in eleven US cities.

Perhaps because of her persistence, Linda Parelli is now widely considered one of horsemanship's finest communicators. As the most dedicated student of the system that bears her husband's name, Linda Parelli is celebrated for her intuitive coaching, which she delivers with wit, compassion and kindness.

"Linda is the hardest worker I know," said her husband Pat Parelli, who will teach alongside her during the tour. "Her passion as an educator is reaching a fever pitch and I don't think anyone has experienced even the tip of what she has to offer."

Because of her dressage background and the diversity of her students, the 2012 Horse & Soul Tour will encompass both English and Western disciplines. It will feature the famous Seven Games™, tips for fool-proofing lead changes, and instruction on Pat's notion of Horsenality™ — a concept that Linda developed and communicates with zeal.

In perennial collaboration, Linda and her horses don't just perform at tour stops — they captivate. Surprises are embraced and then sorted with intelligence and precision. Watching Linda engage her dressage horses in an extended trot or in a series of flying lead changes impels her students to come up higher, to work harder, to learn more, to grow.

But best of all, those who know her will tell you, Linda Parelli is funny. At a demonstration once, Linda trotted past a capacity crowd on her Dutch Warmblood Remmer and, mildly annoyed with her bouncing sunglasses, took them off and winged them into the audience.

"That wasn't an Elvis thing," she said. "I want those back." The crowd laughed and cheered its approval for the woman many people in the horsemanship world consider bigger than Elvis.

But the beautiful thing about Linda Parelli is that no matter how big the venue or how bright the star, the relationship with the horse is always paramount. And that is the very essence of the 2012 Tour.



LINDA
PARELLI



PAT
PARELLI



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JUNE 2-3
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JULY 21-22
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TAMPA, FL

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